

Fruits Basket™

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The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



8

Shojo manga

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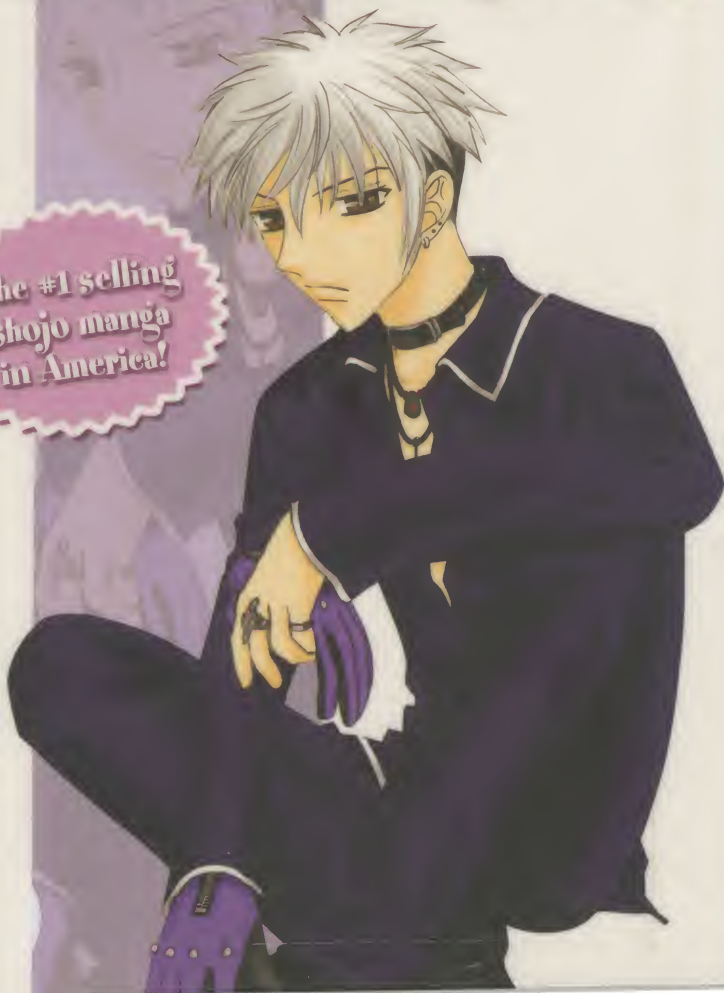
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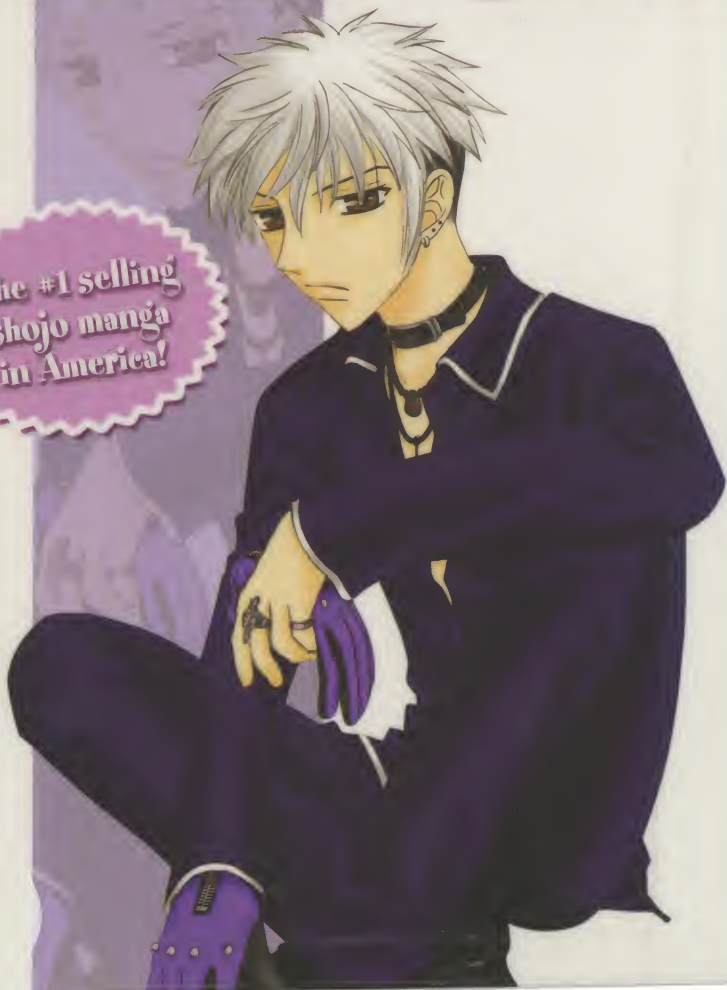
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Summer is on its way, so of course Tohru and friends are excited about the upcoming vacation and field trip. But what's that sound? It's Hatsuharu going beserk in the classroom...again! Black Haru is full of more rage than usual, so what will happen when Yuki intervenes? And then there's Ritsu Sohma, whose mom Tohru met at the hot spring...but what's wrong with this kimono-wearing beauty?!



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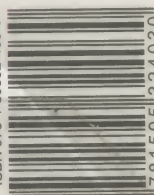


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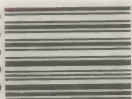


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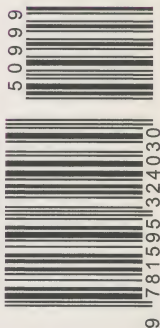
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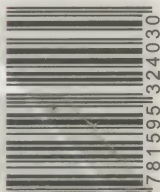
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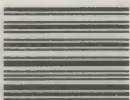


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Fruits Basket™

Volume 8



Natsuki Takaya

STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!

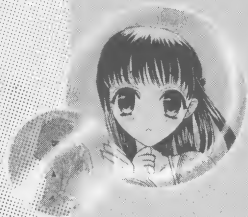


Fruits Basket™

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Fruits Basket Characters



Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

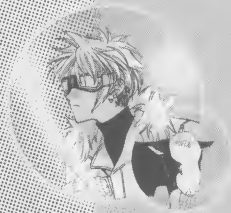
Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out.



Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

Akito Sohma

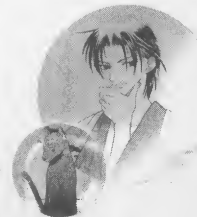
The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



Mabudachi Trio

Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.



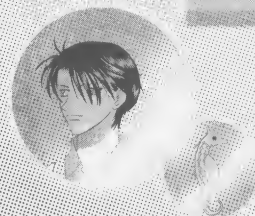
Tohru's Best Friends

Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan" Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.

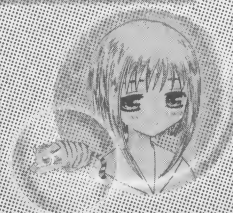


Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.

Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.



Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.



Fruits Basket™

Chapter 43





ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 1

Aaargh! I keep thinking I want to change the title of this section, but before I knew it, it had gotten to the twentieth volume.

It's long... It's too long, this title...

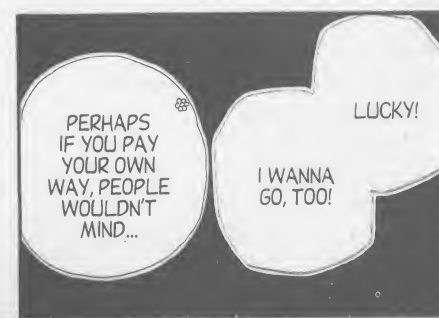
Filler
Sketch



Shigure-san—even his teasing of Mitchan must be in moderation.



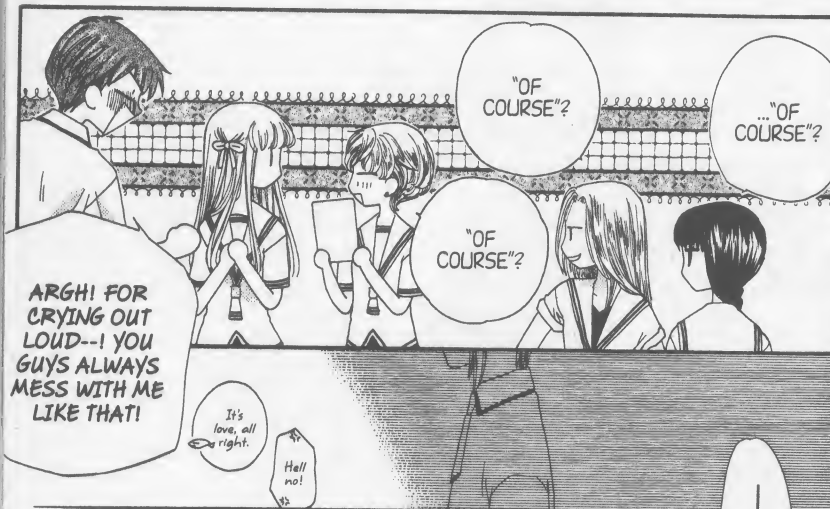
*Book: 100 Good Restaurants in Kyoto and Nara





OF
COURSE
I DON'T...

STU--



ARGH! FOR
CRYING OUT
LOUD--! YOU
GUYS ALWAYS
MESS WITH ME
LIKE THAT!

It's
love, all
right.

Hell
no!

"OF
COURSE"?

"...OF
COURSE"?

"OF
COURSE"?



OH!

IT'S YUKI!



rub
rub
rub

KYO, YOU
DUMMKOPF!!

rub

rub
rub

AAGHH!
DAMMIT, NOW
I DEFINITELY
REFUSE!

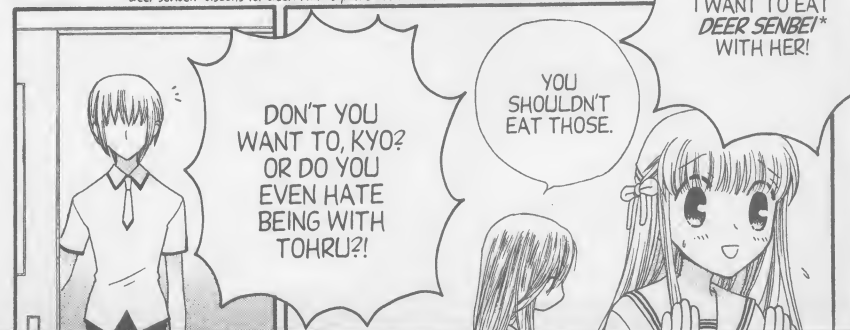
YOU GET TO GO
WITH TOHRU.
YOU SHOULDN'T
BE SO SELFISH!!



HEY...

I WISH
I COULD
GO WITH
TOHRU!

*deer senbei: biscuits for deer. Nara's parks are famous for the deer that visitors can feed.



DON'T YOU
WANT TO, KYO?
OR DO YOU
EVEN HATE
BEING WITH
TOHRU?!

YOU
SHOULDN'T
EAT THOSE.

I WANT TO EAT
DEER SENBEI*
WITH HER!

Fruits Basket 8:
Part 1

Hajimemashite and konnichiwa! It's Takaya again. We're up to volume 8. This makes the twentieth manga volume by me (in Japan, at least). Woo-hoo! Clap clap! And decorating the cover of this momentous 20th volume is Hatsuharu. And the reason is... it's just his turn (To put it frankly). Haru is one of the kids who is really easy to draw. His personality comes out so well. And with that, please, enjoy Furuba volume 8!



CLEAR...

...THE WAY.



SOHMA-SENPAI!

ソフマ...

SOHMA...

OH! IT'S DANGEROUS IN THERE!!



IT'S ALL RIGHT.

EVERYONE... EVEN YOU, SENSEI, PLEASE GET A LITTLE FURTHER AWAY FROM THE CLASSROOM.

LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T TURNED INTO AN OX YET.

YO, HARU!



EHH?

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, MOMIJI? ARE THEY LETTING YOU OUT EARLY?

OH YES, MOMIJI-KUN...

...WEREN'T YOU SAYING THAT SOMETHING IS TERRIBLE?

AH!



DID WORK GO WELL, YUKI-KUN?

He was doing class officer duties.

AH...

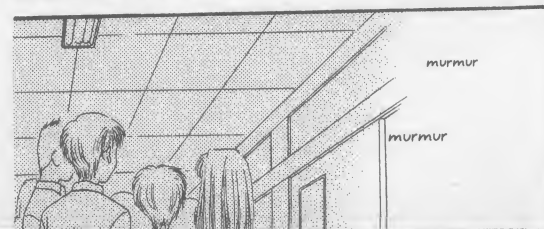
GOOD WORK!

YEAH.



WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US SOONER?!

OH YEAH. IT'S TERRIBLE. HARU WENT BLACK AND IS TEARING THE CLASSROOM APART.



murmur

murmur



WHAT'LL WE DO?

HATSU-HARU-SAN...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

...SINCE HE'S REALLY BEEN BLACK.

EH?!

Then what about the other times he was Black-san?



CUT THE CRAP, HARU.

WHEN YOU GET VIOLENT, IT JUST CAUSES ME PROBLEMS.

SHUT THE HELL UP, STUPID CAT! YOUR EXISTENCE CAUSES PROBLEMS, STUPID CAT.

IF YOU WANT TO STOP ME...

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

TEARING THE PLACE APART.



...YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO COME AT ME LIKE YOU'RE READY TO KILL ME!



WHAT?!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HARU?

HE REALLY SMASHED THE CLASSROOM TO RUINS, HUH?



SCREW THAT!
I'D RATHER
LET EVERY-
ONE KNOW
EVERYTHING!!

YOU WANNA
LIVE YOUR
LIFE SCARED
OF BEING
RATTED
OUT?

STUPID,
STUPID!

YOU'RE SO
STUPID!



...DON'T
YOU?
YOU
AGREE
WITH
ME...

HATSU--

HEY!



HARU...

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED...

...BUT YOU
CAN'T BE SO
VIOLENT AT
SCHOOL.



IS
THAT
SO...?!

HEY,
KID... TRY
SAYING
THAT
AGAIN TO
MY FACE.

KYO-KU--

DON'T
LET HIM
BAIT YOU,
STUPID CAT.

WELL, WHY
NOT STOP
STANDING
THERE AND DO
SOMETHING!!



NO. THAT'S
NOT ALL I'M
SAYING.

IT'S
MORE...

SO
STUPID!

YOU JUST
DON'T WANT ME
TO TRANSFORM
WHILE I'M RAM-
PAGING, RIGHT?
BECAUSE THEN
WE'D ALL BE IN
TROUBLE.



HA!

YOU'RE
SUCH A
WORRIER,
PRINCESS
YUKI.



I KNOW YOUR
GAME, STUPID
CAT. DAMN
SHOWOFF.



I'M NOT,
MORON.



WHY STOP
WITH THE
NECK?

I'LL BREAK
EVERY BONE
IN YOUR BODY,
DAMN KID!

KYO-KUN,
HATSUHARU-
SAN....!!

YEAH YOU ARE.
YOU WANT TO
LOOK COOL,
'SPECIALLY
IN FRONT OF
HER!

WHAT? YOU
WANNA BREAK
MY NECK?!

Well
?!!



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT MADE
YOU SNAP...

...BUT DON'T
GET TOHRU
INVOLVED...



...WITH
YOUR STUPID
PROBLEMS.









ANYWAY,
HARU...

...YOU-

YUKI.

I GUESS
FAIRIES
REALLY DO
EXIST.

A mystery...

...OR
NOT.

*The girls in
the class
cleaned
it up.*

YOU
KNOW, YOU
REALLY
COULD...

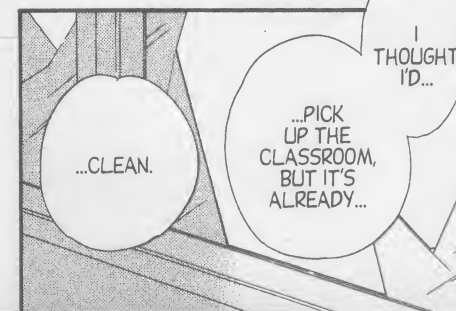
...JUST
CALL HER
"TOHRU."



HARU...



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



...CLEAN.

I
THOUGHT
I'D...

...PICK
UP THE
CLASSROOM,
BUT IT'S
ALREADY...



I CAN'T
STAND IT.

EVEN
NOW, I'M
KEEPING
A LID
ON THE
FEELINGS
I DON'T
WANT TO
ADMIT I
HAVE.

EVEN
THOUGH
HARU HAS
A LOT TO
DEAL WITH
RIGHT NOW
...

...HE STILL
CAN'T HELP
BUT BE
CONCERNED
ABOUT ME.

....

BUT I...

HMM
...?

SO
YOU...

...ONLY
CARE ABOUT
YOURSELF,
HUH?

I...

I ONLY
WORRY
ABOUT
MYSELF.

...IS YOU,
HARU!!

...WHAT WE
SHOULD
BE WOR-
RIED ABOUT
MOST...

RIGHT
NOW...

THIS ISN'T
ABOUT ME!

DON'T
START!

OH,
HARU...
YOU...

YOU'RE
ALWAYS
WORRYING...

...ABOUT
EVERYONE
ELSE.

....



I GOT
DUMPED.

I...



YOU MEAN,
AKITO...

IT WAS KIND
OF A SECRET
THAT WE
WERE GOING
OUT.

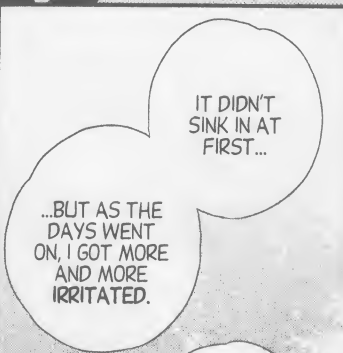
*Sensei might
have realized
though.*

THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
TOLD
ANYONE.



SINCE...

...WE'RE
BOTH IN THE
ZODIAC, I
THOUGHT...



IT DIDN'T
SINK IN AT
FIRST...

...BUT AS THE
DAYS WENT
ON, I GOT MORE
AND MORE
IRRITATED.

AND
TODAY, I
WAS THINKING
ABOUT IT,
AND GETTING
WORKED UP
...

...AND I JUST
SNAPPED.



THANK
YOU.

SEE?



THAT'S
FUNNY.

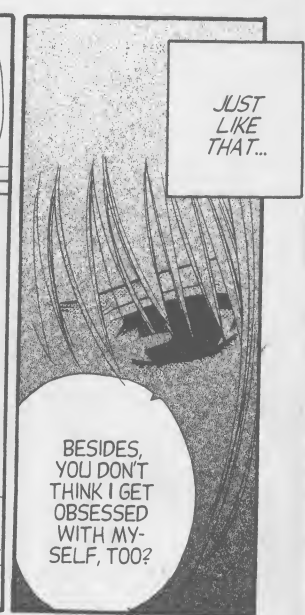
YOU
WOULDN'T
THINK SOME-
ONE SO SELF-
ABSORBED...

...WOULD
COME TO
CHECK UP
ON ME.



...I TURN
BLACK AND
TEAR THINGS
APART?

WHY
ELSE
DO YOU
THINK...



JUST
LIKE
THAT...

BESIDES,
YOU DON'T
THINK I GET
OBSESSED
WITH MY-
SELF, TOO?

...OF
NEEDING
HER.

...WANT TO
SEE HER SO
BADLY?

IT'S NOT LIKE
I CAN EASILY
GIVE UP...

...THE
FEELINGS...

...GOING
TO DO
NOW?

.....
WHAT
ARE
YOU...

slump

AT FIRST
I'D GO TO SEE
HER AT THE
SICKROOM,
AND WE'D
SNEAK OUT
TOGETHER.

BUT LATELY...
I JUST COULDN'T
TELL WHAT SHE
WAS THINKING.

.....
SHE GOT
HURT BAD...
AND SHE'S
CHANGED.

AND
SUDDENLY SHE
DUMPED ME.

WHY?
.....

WHY DO I
STILL...

...WHY?

"I'M TIRED
OF YOU."

"I DON'T
NEED YOU
ANYMORE."



Chapter 44



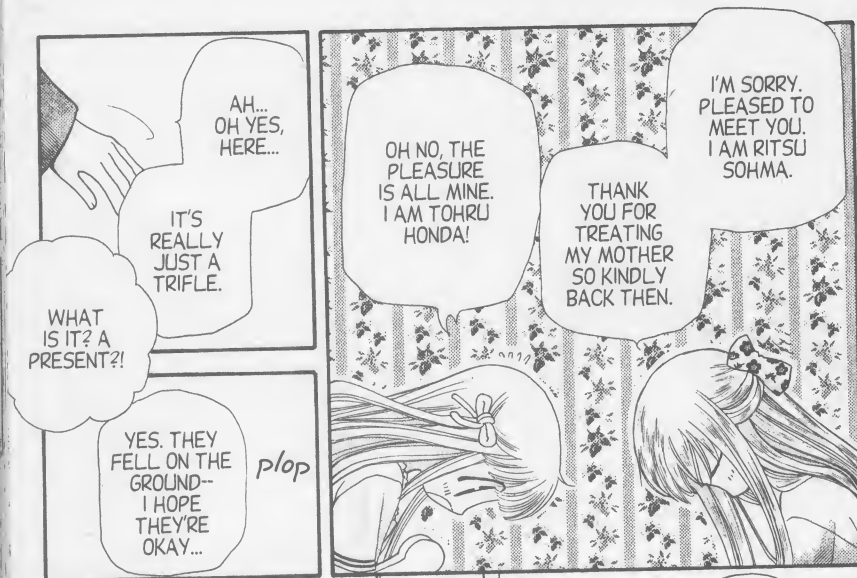


*For details, see volume 3



UL-SPE (I'LL ABBREVIATE IT AT LEAST!) BLAH BLAH BLAH 2

Now that Ritsu has shown up, there are very few members of the Zodiac left. But Ritchan sure is energetic... (laugh).



AH...
OH YES,
HERE...

IT'S
REALLY
JUST A
TRIFLE.

WHAT
IS IT? A
PRESENT?!

YES. THEY
FELL ON THE
GROUND--
I HOPE
THEY'RE
OKAY...

plop



OH NO, THE
PLEASURE
IS ALL MINE.
I AM TOHRU
HONDA!

THANK
YOU FOR
TREATING
MY MOTHER
SO KINDLY
BACK THEN.

I'M SORRY.
PLEASED TO
MEET YOU.
I AM RITSU
SOHMA.



...EH?

EH? EH?! I'M
SORRY. IT WAS
A STUPID IDEA,
WASN'T IT? DID
I OFFEND YOU?

WELL...
YES.



YES
YOU DID.



...SO
I BROUGHT
BOOKS ABOUT
FRUIT...

I THOUGHT
I WOULD BRING
FRUIT, BUT I
DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'D
LIKE...



JUST
KIDDING!

NO, NO.
SERIOUSLY,
I WAS
JOKING.

hee hee
hee



I HEARD THAT
ALMOST ALL OF
THE MEMBERS
OF THE ZODIAC
HAD MET
TOHRU-SAN...

...AND MY
MOTHER TOLD ME
I SHOULD
GO TO SEE
HER...

...SO I
THOUGHT IN
THAT CASE
IT MIGHT BE
RUDE NOT TO
SEE HER, AND
SO HERE I AM.



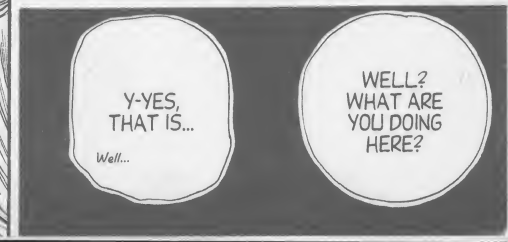
doki
doki

AS
USUAL, YOU
SHARE YOUR
MOTHER'S
TRAIT OF
JUMPING INTO
A PANIC.

YOU'LL
BE GOING OUT
INTO THE REAL
WORLD SOON.
IT'S TIME
YOU GET IT
TOGETHER.

SHE'S SO
MUCH LIKE
HER MOTHER, I
KNEW IT WAS
RITCHAN-SAN!

YES... I'M
SORRY...



Y-YES,
THAT IS...

Well...

WELL?
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?



WOW...

SHE'S
EVEN MORE
BEAUTIFUL
WHEN SHE
SMILES.

THANK YOU
SO MUCH.



I'M SURE
THAT THE
OTHER
TWO ARE
BEAUTIFUL
TOO, EVEN
IF THEY
ARE MEN.

TOHRU-
KUN,
TOHRU-
KUN.

BECAUSE
YOU'RE ONE
OF THE FEW
WOMEN,
RITCHAN-SAN.

...SO THIS
MEANS
THEY'RE
BOTH MEN,
RIGHT?

I STILL
HAVEN'T
MET HORSE-
SAN OR
ROOSTER-
SAN...



NO!
♡

I KID, I KID.
♡

I'LL
GET
SOME
FRUIT
RIGHT
AWAY!



I'VE REALLY
WANTED TO
MEET YOU,
RITCHAN-SAN.

SO YOUR
COMING TO
VISIT ME
LIKE THIS...

...MAKES
ME REALLY
REALLY
HAPPY!



sob
sob
sob

IT'S
ALL RIGHT.
PLEASE
JUST SAY IT.

TELL ME I'M
NOT WORTHY
OF VISITING
THIS HOUSE!

sob

THAT'S NOT
TRUE!

Yay! New
books!

HE'S
RIGHT!



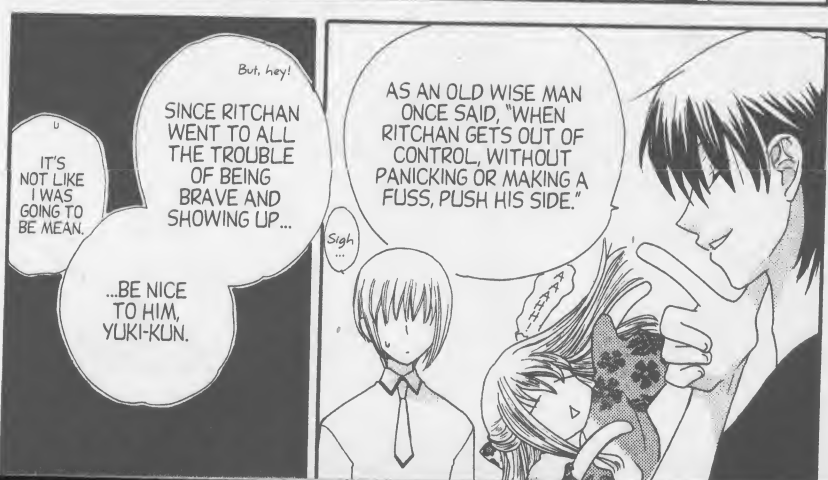
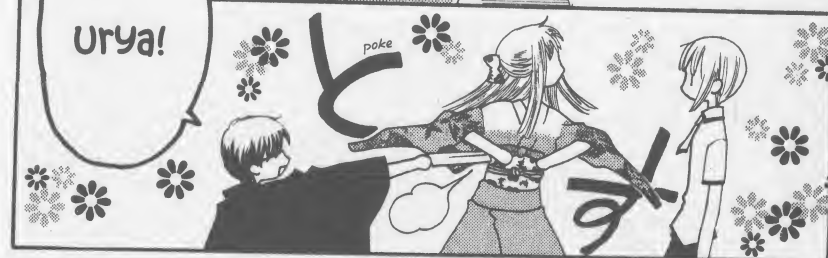
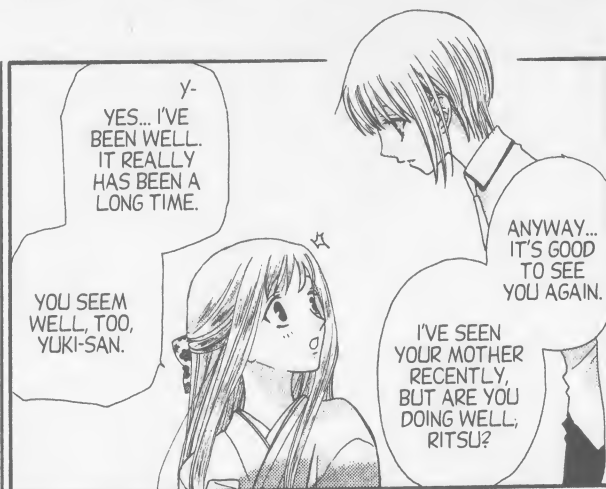
Fruits Basket 8:
Part 2

My handwriting in volume seven is really, really small. A friend of mine teased me about it. but then, I tease myself about it.



It seems it's still hard for me to write bigger since the surgery. I feel like my writing was never that big to begin with. Even signing my name, my handwriting gets smaller as time goes on.

This time I'm writing bigger! or am I...?





...THROUGH
A LOT.

IT REALLY
ALL DEPENDS
ON HARU...
I GUESS.

HE'S
FIGHTING
...

SO AM I...



IT'S ALL
RIGHT.



FIGHT...
ING?



THE
TENSION
AND
EVERY-
THING...

BUT
YOU WERE
SURPRISED,
WEREN'T
YOU?

Tee hee!

JUST LIKE
OKAMI-SAN
AT THE
ONSEN.

whimper

*Oh,
quiet,
you!*

You're not playing with a geisha.



....

I'M NOT
SURE...



W
A
A
A
H!

WELCOME
HOME,
YUKI-KUN!

THANKS.
SO I GUESS
YOU KNOW
RITSU'S HERE.

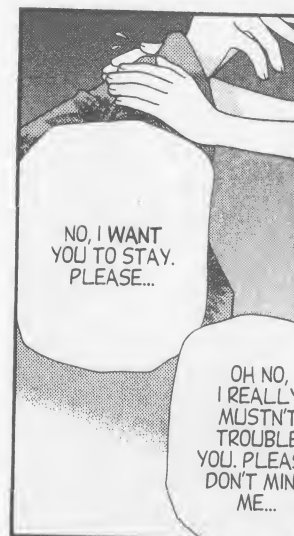
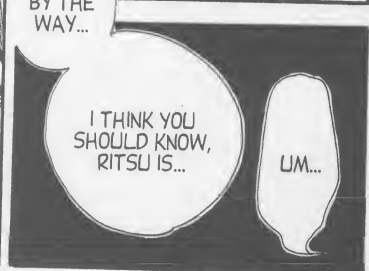
YES! I'M
SO HAPPY
I COULD
MEET HER!



OH!

YUKI-KUN...
IS HATSU-
HARU-SAN...

...ALL
RIGHT?





EH...?

AH...

poof

plop

ドッ

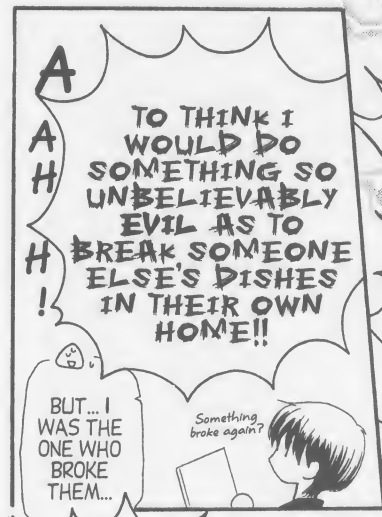
?!

HUH?

BUT... SHE'S A WOMAN.

WHY...?

H-HUH...?



A
A
H
H
!

TO THINK I WOULD DO SOMETHING SO UNBELIEVABLY EVIL AS TO BREAK SOMEONE ELSE'S DISHES IN THEIR OWN HOME!!

BUT... I WAS THE ONE WHO BROKE THEM...

Something broke again?

I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY! THAT SOMEONE SUCH AS MYSELF WOULD INTRUDE INTO YOUR HOME, IT'S UNFORGIVABLE!

This is a shoujo manga.



I APOLOGIZE!
I APOLOGIZE TO THE ENTIRE WORLD!!

RITCHAN-SAN, THE GLASS! LOOK OUT!

NO



!!



COULD IT
BE... YOU'RE
SECRETLY
LOVEY-DOVEY
WITH TOHRU-
KUN?

OH? WHAT
IS THIS, HAA-
SAN? YOU'RE
ACTUALLY
LISTENING TO
MY REQUEST
WITHOUT
COMPLAINING
AT ALL?

IF IT'S ALL
RIGHT, I'LL
BE THERE
LATER
TONIGHT.

TOHRU TOOK
A LITTLE SPILL.
WHEN YOU GET
A CHANCE, COME
TAKE A LOOK
AT IT.



I WAS STRUCK
SPEECHLESS AT
THE STUPIDITY OF
WHAT YOU SAID.

Ooo-
ooh!
Love,
love,
kissy,
kissy!!

AM I
RIGHT?! I
AM RIGHT,
AREN'T I?!



RITSU...IS
A MAN.

YOU
SEE...



HUH?



YOU'RE...



YOU'RE
BLEEDING!!



...TRANS-
FORM?



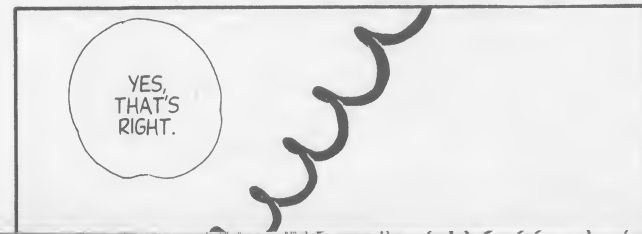
HONDA-
SAN!



SO WHY
DID SHE...



HUH...?



YES,
THAT'S
RIGHT.



...WHEN HE
DRESSES
LIKE A
WOMAN.

HE SAYS
IT CALMS
HIM
DOWN...

I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T
TELL YOU
SOONER.

I WAS AFRAID
YOU MIGHT HAVE
MISTAKEN HIM
FOR A WOMAN.

NO,
IT'S NO
PROBLEM!

BUT I WONDER
WHY HE
DRESSES LIKE
A WOMAN?



HUH?

NOW THAT
YOU MENTION
IT, WHERE
IS RITCHAN-
SAN...?



IF HE
DRESSED
LIKE A MAN,
IT WOULD BE
EVEN WORSE.

YOU SEE,
RITCHAN IS
VERY SHY.

IS THAT
WHY...



I-

I WAS
CONVINCED
THAT HE WAS
A WOMAN.

TO THINK
THAT SUCH
A BEAUTIFUL
PERSON WOULD
BE MALE...

THE SOHMA
FAMILY
REALLY IS
FULL OF
BEAUTIFUL
PEOPLE.



I SEE...

...DRESSING
LIKE A
WOMAN.

BUT HE'S
BEEN DOING
THAT FOR
A LONG
TIME...



THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.

I DID IT.



floppity
flop

カ
タ
カ
タ。



...THERE.

I WAS
EMBARRASSED.

SO HE DOES
REALIZE IT'S
EMBARRASSING

IT'S NOT A
TERRIBLE
WOUND! IT'S
JUST A
LITTLE CUT!!

TOHRU-SAN...
I KNOW AN
APOLOGY
ISN'T ENOUGH

...BUT I'M
SORRY FOR
INFLECTING
SUCH A
TERRIBLE
WOUND ON
YOU.

AND I'M
SORRY THAT
I DIDN'T TELL
YOU THAT
I'M REALLY
A MAN.

AAHH...!

WHY DO I
ALWAYS,
ALWAYS...

...CAUSE
TROUBLE TO
EVERYONE
AROUND ME?!

I THOUGHT
YOU LOOKED
WONDERFUL!!

I DON'T THINK
IT SHOULD BE
EMBARRASSING
FOR YOU TO
DRESS AS A
WOMAN!

THERE'S NO
NEED TO BE!

TOHRU-
KUN... I DON'T
THINK YOU'RE
HELPING...

MY SINS WILL
NEVER BE
FORGIVEN...

OH...

OH
DEAR.

GOD,
BUDDHA...

RITCHAN-
SAN?!

WHEN DID
HE...?

W-W-
WA-WA-
WATCH
OUT!!

IN THIS
WORLD...

IF THAT'S
NOT A
REASON
FOR BEING
BORN IN
THIS
WORLD...

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE
COURAGEOUS!!

WHAT'S
WRONG...

...WITH BEING
SHAMELESS?!

SOMETIMES
LIVING CAN BE
HARD, BUT IT'S
ONLY BECAUSE
WE'RE ALIVE THAT
WE CAN MAKE
EACH OTHER...

...I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT IS!

...LAUGH, CRY...
BE HAPPY!







THAT'S
RIGHT.
YUKI-KUN...

...IS TRYING
TO CHANGE.

SO...

IT'S RUDE
OF ME
TO KEEP
WORRYING.
ISN'T IT...

...YUKI-KUN?



...I
JUST...

NOW, THIS
IS UNUSUAL.
I DON'T THINK
I'VE EVER
SEEN YOU SO
ASSERTIVE.

Y-YES,
UM...



SHI-
SHIGURE-
NIISAN...

IF IT'S NOT
TOO MUCH
TROUBLE...
WOULD IT BE
ALL RIGHT FOR
ME TO STAY
JUST ONE
NIGHT...?



YOU KNOW,
STUFF
HAPPENS.

I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY,
HATORI-
NIISAN.

WHEN
YOU
CALLED
...

...YOU ONLY
SAID THAT
HONDA-KUN
WAS HURT.



IT'S FINE
LIKE THIS..

THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR
TROUBLE.

AND YOU
CAME ALL
THIS WAY
TO LOOK
AT IT...I'M
SORRY.



WELL?
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

OH!
YES, MY
HAND...



!



Chapter 45

HE MAY BE A MAN,
BUT HE'S STILL
BEAUTIFUL....

...THE MONKEY,
RITCHAN-SAN.

I WONDER IF
TOMORROW I'LL
GET TO TALK TO
HIM SOME MORE.





OH MY.

You were here?

...OR SOMEONE MIGHT SEND YOU FLYING THROUGH THE ROOF.



GOOD MORNING, KYO-KUN...

... SHEESH.

AND YOU! STOP SMILING AND TELL HIM YOU DON'T LIKE IT!!

UM, AH...

THE ONLY REASON THAT STUPID DOG KEEPS SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT IS BECAUSE YOU LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT!



WHO ARE YOU CALLING YOUR WIFE?! HAAH?!

IF YOU DON'T SHUT YOUR STUPID MOUTH, I'LL BREAK YOUR NECK!!

Eek! Kyo-kun's scary!



NO.

IT'S JUST RIGHT.

IS THERE ENOUGH SALT?

IT'S NOT TOO SPICY, IS IT?



Ooooooh, hoo, hoo!



YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

WHILE WE WERE TOGETHER AT THE SUMMER HOUSE, I NEVER GOT TO ASK YOU HOW YOU LIKE YOUR FOOD, HATORI-SAN!

THANK GOODNESS!



YOU HAD BETTER THINK TWICE BEFORE YOU SAY THOSE STUPID THINGS...

EH?! OO

ISN'T SHE GREAT? AREN'T YOU JEALOUS? DON'T YOU JUST WANT TO STEAL HER AWAY?

MY NEW HOUSEWIFE!





IT'S NOT HER
FAULT! I'M
SORRRYYYY!!!

WHOA!!



OH YEAH...
YOU'RE STILL
HERE, TOO...

PLEASE HESITATION, RENDER
RENDER JUDGMENT!

I AM THE
ONE WHO DRANK
THE LAST OF THE
MILK! I AM THE ONE
WHO AM STEEPED
IN SINS! I AM THE
EVIL ONE! NOW,
PLEASE, WITHOUT
JUDGMENT!

I ALWAYS
HAVE CORN
FLAKES FOR
BREAKFAST,
SO TOHRU-SAN
POURED THE
MILK THAT
WOULD HAVE
BEEN YOURS.
KYO-SAN,
INTO MY
BOWL!

Oh dear...

How,
HOW ON
EARTH CAN
I POSSIBLY
MAKE IT UP
TO YOU, KYO-
SAAAAAN?!!

RITCHAN, NEXT
TIME PUT DOWN
YOUR CEREAL
BEFORE YOU
LAUNCH INTO
YOUR VIOLENT
CONFESSIONS.



RITCHAN-
SAN...

I KNEW
THAT NOTHING
BUT ILL WOULD
COME OF MY
PARTAKING OF
BREAKFAST
AT SHIGURE-
NIISAN'S
HONORABLE
HOME!!



ASK
SHIGURE.

WHAT ARE YOU
STILL DOING
HERE ANYWAY,
HATORI?!

It's tea! I want
it! Gimme,
gimme!

No.

THAT'S
GOT NOTHING
TO DO WITH
ME!!

B-BUT IF
HATORI-SAN
HADN'T COME
HERE...

...THEN
RITCHAN-SAN'S
INJURY MIGHT
HAVE GOTTEN
SERIOUS!

たし
clack



AH...!

I'M SORRY!
YOU'RE
RIGHT!!

I'LL GO
BUY SOME
MILK RIGHT
AWAY!

Huh?

WAIT, WAIT,
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO--

NO, NO!
AS SOMEONE
WHO HAS BEEN
ENTRUSTED WITH
THE KITCHEN,
THIS IS VERY
SERIOUS!



WHA!

THERE'S NO
NEED TO
TAKE YOUR
JEALOUSY
OUT ON HER.

I'M
NOT!!



HUH?

WE'RE OUT
OF MILK?

EH?!

WHY IS HE
APOLOGIZING?

I'M
SORRY I
LET YOU
SLEEP
LATE!!

I'M SORRY
I MADE
YOU LATE!!

UM...
RITCHAN-
SAN, UM.....

I'M SORRY TO
DO THIS AGAIN,
BUT YOU CAN'T
SAY I DIDN'T
WARN YOU...

Hi-ya!

HEY! DON'T YOU
GO DECIDING THE
FUTURE OF MY
SCHOOLING!!

He just woke up so is
in a really bad mood.

OOHH, I'M
SORRY! YOU'LL
BE SUSPENDED
BECAUSE OF
BEING LATE. AND
THEN YOU'LL BE
EXPELLED! I'M SO
SORRY!!!

IN THAT
CASE, HOW
CAN I--?!

JUST GO TO
THE STORE
AND BUY
SOME MORE
MILK!!

UH,
UM...

RITCHAN-SAN,
SO BEAUTIFUL
THAT AT FIRST
GLANCE, YOU'D
THINK HE WAS
A WOMAN.

(I REALLY
DID THINK
HE WAS A
WOMAN...)

I'D
RATHER
DIE.

PLEASE DRINK
AS MUCH MILK
AS YOU LIKE
FROM THIS DISH!
I'VE HARDLY
TOUCHED IT!

RITCHAN-
SAN, THE
MONKEY.

GOOD
MORNING!

YUKI-KUN,
YOU'RE
UP LATE.

GOOD
MORNING...

HIS
PERSONALITY
REALLY DOES
SEEM TO
RESEMBLE
HIS MOTHER'S.



WHY IS THAT?! CAN'T MY DREAM COME TRUE?!

AAYA'S CONFIDENCE IS FAR BEYOND THAT OF MORTAL MEN!

Someone like you should set his sights a little lower...

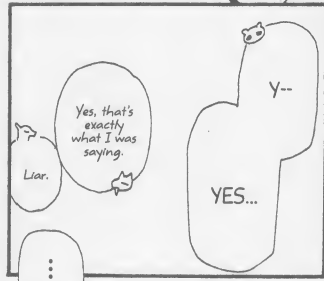
AYAAME ASIDE...

eat it normally!
eats his soba with deep confidence

AAHH, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

...I HOPE THAT I CAN OVERFLOW WITH CONFIDENCE, LIKE AYA-
NIISAN!

OF COURSE! SOMEDAY...



Yes, that's exactly what I was saying.
Liar.

y--
YES...



SO YOU CAN HAVE A LITTLE MORE COMPOSURE.

...THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU AREN'T BLAMING YOU OR CRITICIZING YOU AS MUCH AS YOU THINK.



THAT'S FUNNY. YOU'RE ALWAYS MORE OF A VILLAIN.

YOU FIGHT FOR JUSTICE?

JUSTICE PREVAILS!



Er...



SO, LISTEN.

YES... I'M SORRY.

YOU STAYED HERE BECAUSE YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK TOHRUKUN, DIDN'T YOU?

I TOLD YOU, YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN.

Not so you could run amok...



RITCHAN, YOU WANT TO BE A BETTER MAN, DON'T YOU?

HE SURE DOES HAVE A WAY OF PUTTING THINGS BLUNTLY.

IT'S WHEN YOU START APOLOGIZING LIKE THAT THAT YOU REALLY CREEP PEOPLE OUT.

NONE OF US REALLY GIVE A HOOT ABOUT YOU ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

y-yes...

Fruits Basket 8:
Part 3

So my second Playstation is broken. (The PS2 is fine.) It fizzled out right in the middle of a game. And so, as I sat there and stared (in shock) at the black TV screen, I thought, "Wouldn't it be cool if the titles of all the games I've played and the time I spent playing them scrolled by like credits in a movie?"

You served me well, Playstation-san... Thank you.



HE'LL COME TOMORROW FOR SURE!

IT'S OKAY!



Anyway...
TOHRU, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAND?



REALLY? IS THAT TRUE?

BUT I'M FINE!
IT'S JUST A SCRATCH.

N-NO, UM...
I WAS CLUMSY...

IT HAPPENED WHEN RITSU WAS ON THE RAMPAGE.



Ritchan's really fun, isn't he?!

He's energetic and powerful!!

Yes!

AND HE'S VERY PRETTY.

ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE EASIER ON ALL OF US IF HE WASN'T SO ENERGETIC...



HUH...? HEY, WHERE'S HARU?

HE STAYED HOME!



"I'M SORRY."

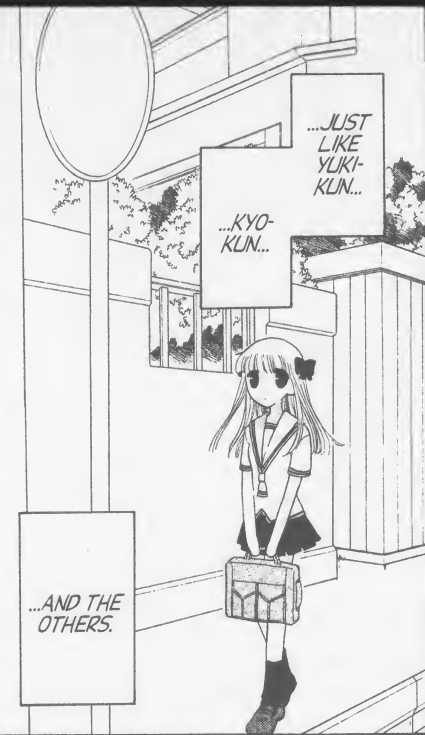
"I APOLOGIZE."
"I'M SORRY..."

"...FATHER, MOTHER."



"WHY WAS I..."

...BORN IN THIS WORLD?"



...KYO-KUN...

...JUST LIKE YUKI-KUN...

...AND THE OTHERS.

"I CAN GO ON SMILING EVERY DAY BECAUSE MY LITTLE GIRL IS HERE."

...THAT I HAD YOU, TOHRU...

"I'M SO GLAD..."

"MOMMY..."

"DOES THAT MEAN I WAS BORN..."

"...SO THAT I COULD MEET YOU?"



WHEN RITCHAN PANICS, HE GOES CRAZY...

...BUT ...

...HE'S VERY NICE.



IT'S LIKE SOMEONE TRIED THEIR ABSOLUTE VERY HARDEST TO WRAP IT!!

WOW! THAT'S SOME BANDAGE YOU HAVE THERE.

(the one who wrapped it.)



...FOR SOMETHING...

...IT'S SO VERY GENTLE.

WHEN HE SMILES...

AND YET HE BLAMES HIMSELF...

YES, HE IS!



IF HE DOESN'T
EAT TAKOYAKI,
HIS WRITING
BRUSH SLOWS
DOWN!

OR SO HE
SAYS...

I SEE...



Y-YOU'RE
RIGHT!!

OH I
COULDN'T!
PLEASE,
TOHRU-SAN!

YES, WHAT
IS IT?!

NO, I
COULDN'T!

NO, NO,
RITCHAN-
SAN, YOU
GO FIRST!

N-NO,
WHAT DO
YOU HAVE
TO SAY?!

DON'T YOU
FEEL LIKE
WE'RE
GETTING
NOWHERE
LIKE THIS?!

I COULDN'T!



YES...
THAT
IS... UM!!

BY ALL
MEANS!!

S-S-S-SO,
RITCHAN-
SAN...



I'M SORRY!
PLEASE EXCUSE
ME! PLEASE
FORGIVE ME!
I'LL GO BUY
MORE TAKOYAKI*
RIGHT AWAY!

I'M SORRY!
I'M SORRY! I
TRIED TO TAKE
IT BACK! I'LL
APOLOGIZE!
I'LL APOLOGIZE
TO THE WHOLE
WORLD!

I'MMM
SORRRYYY!

"IF
THAT'S
TRUE..."

...IT WOULD
MAKE ME
HAPPY."

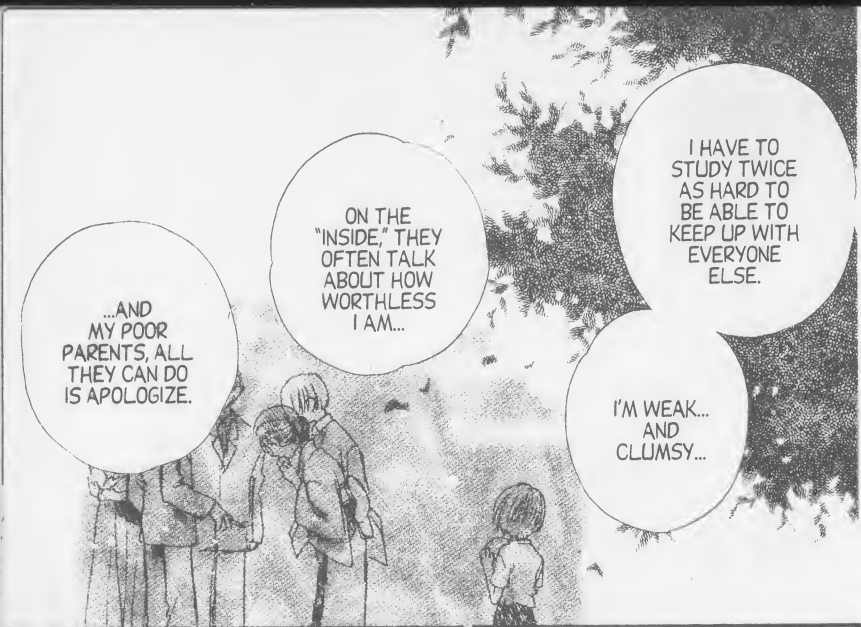
RITCHAN-
SAN...?

* takoyaki: dumplings made with bits of
octopus meat—a tasty treat!

Enjoying the takoyaki.

SH...!

SHIGURE-
NIISAN...



...AND MY POOR PARENTS, ALL THEY CAN DO IS APOLOGIZE.

ON THE "INSIDE," THEY OFTEN TALK ABOUT HOW WORTHLESS I AM...

I HAVE TO STUDY TWICE AS HARD TO BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH EVERYONE ELSE.

I'M WEAK... AND CLUMSY...



SO...

I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO BE STRONGER...

...AND STOP DRESSING LIKE A WOMAN.

BUT...I JUST DON'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE.



Kagura-chan... will you give me this dress?

EVER SINCE I DISCOVERED BY CHANCE THAT WEARING WOMEN'S CLOTHING HELPS ME CALM DOWN A LITTLE, I'VE DRESSED LIKE THAT.

BUT THAT JUST ADDED TO THE NUMBER OF THINGS MY PARENTS HAD TO APOLOGIZE FOR.

You'd wear it?! More than once?!



...SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, DID SHE?

I MEAN, ABOUT ME... THAT SHE'S ASHAMED?

ANYTHING LIKE THAT...?



YES, WHAT IS IT?!

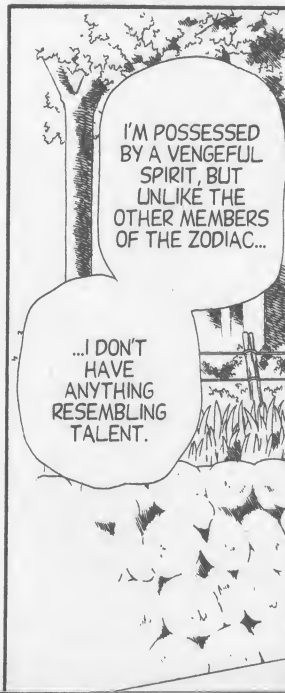
WELL...

TH- THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK.



W-WHEN... YOU MET MY MOTHER...

THAT IS...



I'M POSSESSED BY A VENGEFUL SPIRIT, BUT UNLIKE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ZODIAC...

...I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING RESEMBLING TALENT.



OH!

F-FORGIVE ME. IT MUST BOTHER YOU TO BE ASKED SUCH THINGS. I'M SORRY!

I...REALLY AM HOPELESS...

I KNOW IT'S MY FAULT FOR BEING A SON THAT SHE HAS TO APOLOGIZE FOR.

EVEN SO...

BUT I STILL
KEEP LIVING. I
REALLY AM...

...VERY
SHAME-
LESS.

YOU'RE
TRYING
TO FIND
IT, AREN'T
YOU?

I'M SURE
THAT
INSIDE YOUR
HEART...

...YOU'RE
TRYING WITH
ALL YOUR
MIGHT TO
FIND IT ON
YOUR OWN...

THE
REASON
YOU WERE
BORN.

I'M SURE
THERE WAS
NO REASON...

...FOR ME
TO BE
BORN.

EVEN IF YOU
BELIEVE
THERE IS A
REASON...

...SOME-
TIMES YOU
LOSE THAT
REASON.

I'M SO
SORRY.

MAYBE IT
WOULD BE
BETTER...

...IF I DIDN'T
EXIST.

FATHER AND
MOTHER
MUST HATE
HAVING TO
APOLOGIZE
FOR ME ALL
THE TIME.

SURELY THEY
WANTED A
SON WHO
WOULD MAKE
THEM PROUD.

A WORTH-
WHILE SON.

I'M SORRY.

MY HEART
BROKE.

THAT'S
WHY...

...I'M SO
HOPELESS.



I'M
SEARCHING,
TOO.

AND YOU
MIGHT
LOSE IT.

BUT
AS LONG
AS YOU'RE
ALIVE...

AND IF
I CAN...

IF I CAN, I
WANT TO
FIND MY
REASON...

...YOU HAVE
TO KEEP
SEARCHING
FOR THAT
REASON.

...THE
REASON
YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR...

...MIGHT
BE VAGUE,
UNCLEAR...

...AND
UNCERTAIN.

...IN SOMEONE
ELSE.

IT COULD
BE YOUR
DREAMS...

...YOUR
JOB...

...OR A
PERSON.

I THINK
EVERYONE MIGHT
HAVE TO FIND IT
THEMSELVES...
AND DECIDE
IT FOR THEM-
SELVES.

I THINK...
THAT EVERY-
ONE...EVERYONE
MIGHT HAVE
TO FIND ONE ON
THEIR OWN.

BECAUSE
REALLY...

...THERE MIGHT
NOT BE ANY-
ONE WHO WAS
BORN WITH A
REASON.

BECAUSE
...

A REASON
FOR BEING
BORN...

A REASON
THAT IT'S
OKAY TO BE
ALIVE!

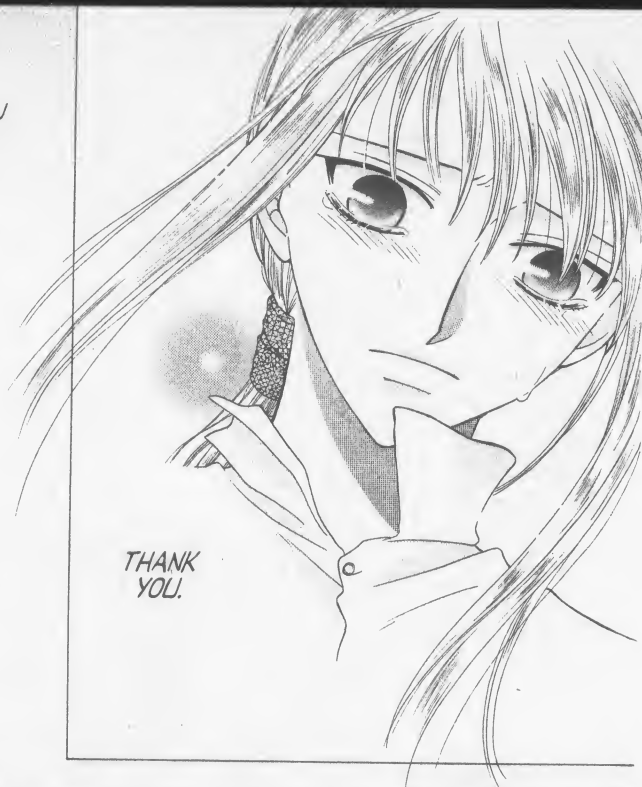
A REASON
TO EXIST.

THANK YOU
SO MUCH.

I WANT TO
HEAR...

...THOSE
WORDS ONE
MORE TIME.

THANK
YOU.



I TOO...

I HOPE I CAN...
SOMEDAY.

...IF IT'S
POSSIBLE...

...I WANT TO
FIND IT IN
SOMEONE
ELSE.

MY REASON.

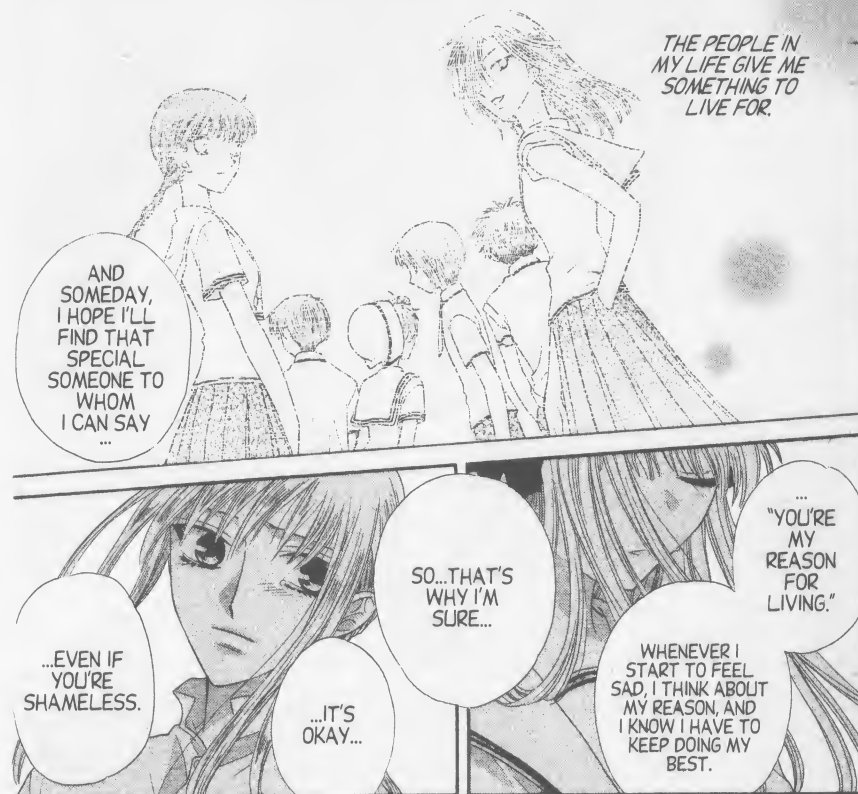
I WANT YOU TO
SAY THEM ONE
MORE TIME.

I WONDER
...

...IF I
CAN
FIND IT.

AND
SOMEDAY,
I HOPE I'LL
FIND THAT
SPECIAL
SOMEONE TO
WHOM
I CAN SAY
...

THE PEOPLE IN
MY LIFE GIVE ME
SOMETHING TO
LIVE FOR.



...EVEN IF
YOU'RE
SHAMELESS.

...IT'S
OKAY...

SO...THAT'S
WHY I'M
SURE...

...
"YOU'RE
MY
REASON
FOR
LIVING."

WHenever I
START TO FEEL
SAD, I THINK ABOUT
MY REASON, AND
I KNOW I HAVE TO
KEEP DOING MY
BEST.



...WHO WILL
WANT TO EAT
TAKOYAKI WITH
YOU MORE THAN
WITH ANYONE
ELSE.

BECAUSE IF
YOU STAY TRUE
TO YOURSELF
AND LIVE YOUR
LIFE BOLDLY,
SOMEDAY...

...YOU MIGHT
BE ABLE
TO MEET
SOMEONE...

I REALIZE
THAT NO
PARENT
WANTS
TO BURY
THEIR OWN
CHILD...

tremble

FATHER,
MOTHER...

PERHAPS THAT
PERSON IS OUT
THERE WAITING
TO HEAR THOSE
WORDS...

....AND I JUST
HAVEN'T MET
THAT PERSON
YET..

PLEASE DON'T
STOP ME!
PLEASE DON'T
STOP ME!! I
REALLY MEAN
IT THIS TIME!!

E
e
e
e
k!

EH?!

EH?!

MITCHAN-
SAN, SNAP
OUT OF IT!!

MITCHAN

...SAN?

...BUT YOUR
DAUGHTER
MITSURU CAN
NO LONGER
BEAR THE
HARASSMENT
OF A CERTAIN
AUTHOR...

tremble

tremble

tremble

tremble

tremble tremble

tremble

I HOPE I
CAN SAY
IT--

"I WAS
BORN FOR
YOU."

I HOPE
I CAN...

IT WOULD BE
NICE IF
I COULD...

...EAT
TAKOYAKI...

...WITH THEM.

...SAY THAT
SOMEDAY.

YES, SENSEI!
WITH IKAYAKI
OR TAKOYAKI
OR WHATEVER
IT TAKES! WRITE
QUICKLY,
WITHOUT
HESITATION!

DROP THE
STORY! THAT'S
DREADFUL!
PLEASE, ONII-
SAN, PLEASE
WRITE WITH
TAKOYAKI
POWER!!

YOU COULDN'T
FINISH? THAT'S
TERRIBLE!
WE'LL HAVE TO
DROP YOUR
STORY!

I'M SORRY!
I'M SORRY,
SHIGURE-
NIISAN!!

N

O

O

O

O

O

O

O

O

O

O

O

O

O



...POWER...

WITH
TAKO-
YAKI...



...YAKI...

TAKO...

I WAS ON
A WALK.

THIS IS NO
TIME FOR
WALKING!
THE MANU-
SCRIPT!!

GIVE ME
THE MANU-
SCRIPT!!



WHERE THE
HECK DID YOU
COME FROM!?!

DAMMIT!
STUPID-
SENSEI!

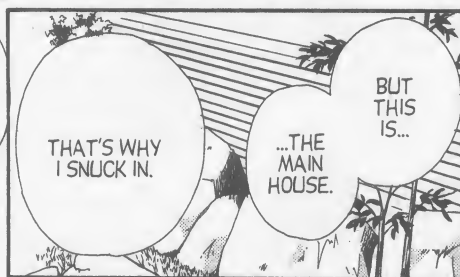
DID YOU
GET MY
TAKOYAKI?



A CERTAIN
SOMEONE NAMED
RITSU SHOWED
UP AND KEPT
ME FROM MY
WRITING.

EH?

THE
MANUSCRIPT?
WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK I
POSSIBLY HAVE
IT FINISHED?

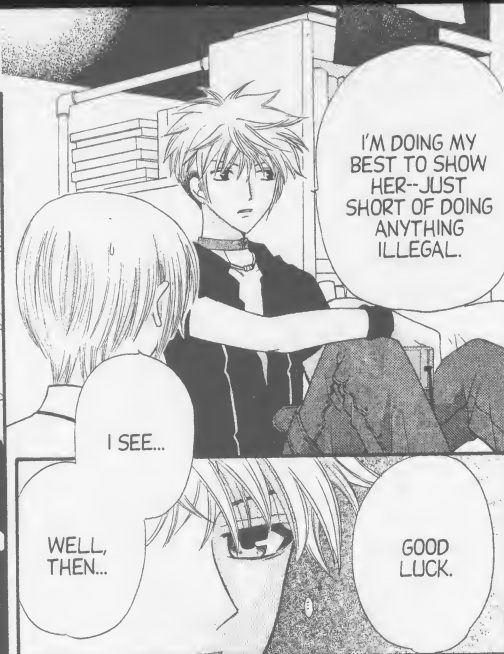




YOU TOO.

GOOD LUCK.

IT WOULD HELP IF YOU'D START CALLING HONDA-SAN BY HER FIRST NAME.



I'M DOING MY BEST TO SHOW HER--JUST SHORT OF DOING ANYTHING ILLEGAL.

I SEE...

WELL, THEN...

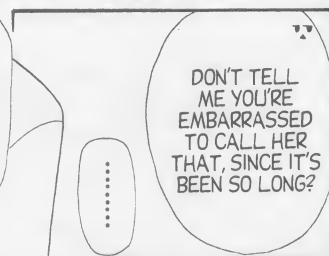
GOOD LUCK.



WHY NOT?

...I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT.

"WHY"...? GIVE IT A REST.



DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE EMBARRASSED TO CALL HER THAT, SINCE IT'S BEEN SO LONG?

THAT'S RIGHT...

.....



I'M SORRY.



THEN...

...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

ABOUT RIN?

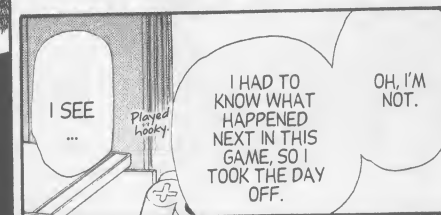
HNN...?



FUNNY... YOU DON'T LOOK SICK.

AND FOR ME.

IN COMMEMORATION OF YOUR COMING TO THE MAIN HOUSE AFTER SO LONG...



I SEE ...

Played hooky.

I HAD TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT IN THIS GAME, SO I TOOK THE DAY OFF.

OH, I'M NOT.



YEAH.

...JUST HOW MUCH I LIKE HER.

I DON'T THINK RIN REALIZES...

I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP ON HER YET.

Filler sketches



Ritchan, having a wonderful dream.



Monkey-Ritchan, wonderfully frightened.



MEANWHILE,
BACK AT THE
HOUSE...



Chapter 46





UL-SPE BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 3

Kyon and Uo are so much alike that they argue a lot, but probably being so much alike is what irritates them the most... something like that.

I feel
so grateful!

...she says.

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,
Kawaai-sama, mother, father,
everyone involved in making the
anime, all the voice actors, and
everyone who reads this manga...

Thank you for all the letters and
presents! And most of all, thank
you for the support!

Next up it's His Highness the King's
turn. You know who I mean!



—Natsuki Takaya



struggle

struggle

grumble

grumble

grumble

grumble

grumble

grumble

IT'S BECAUSE I WAS BORN A WOMAN THAT I DID THAT, YOU STUPID ASS!

IF YOU WERE A MAN, I'D KILL YOU IN A SECOND, DAMN BITCH!!

BE GRATEFUL YOU WERE BORN A WOMAN, YANKEE!

grumble

struggle

struggle

struggle

struggle

UM ...
Let's... eat lunch...?

I overslept and had to skip breakfast!!

BEING HUNGRY PUTS ME IN A BAD MOOD!!

But...

WHY DID YOU KICK KYON-KYON'S DESK?

BECAUSE IT'S EASY TO KICK!!

Max hunger

カッ
タ

YO...

THERE'S BEEN SO MUCH GOING ON, WE KEEP MISSING EACH OTHER.

YES...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE ALL EATEN LUNCH TOGETHER!

WITH THESE PEOPLE AROUND, I CAN EAT, BUT IT WON'T TASTE GOOD...

KYON-KYON, HAVE YOU DECIDED ON WHAT YOU'RE GONNA BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

KYooooon-Kyon!

I GUESS I SHOULD ASK GRANDPA.

SHUT UP!! THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

U-U-Uotani-sama...?

IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

IT'S LUNCH-TIME! I'M HUNGRY, DAMMIT!!

Grrrrumble...

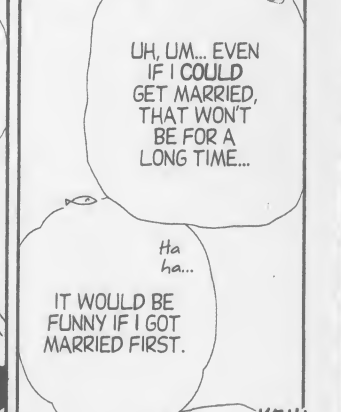
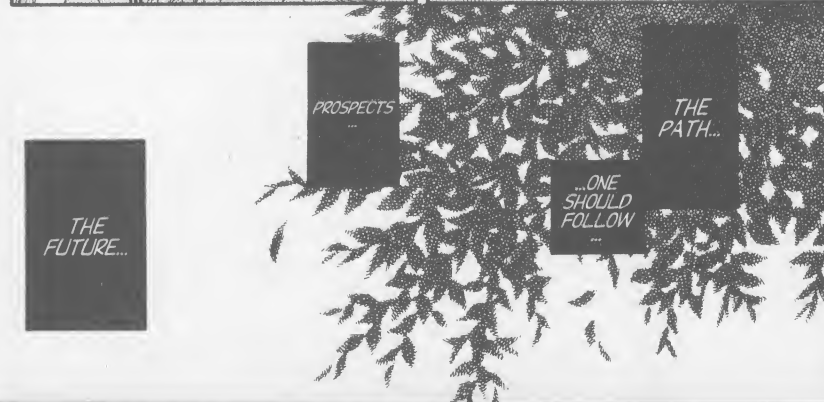
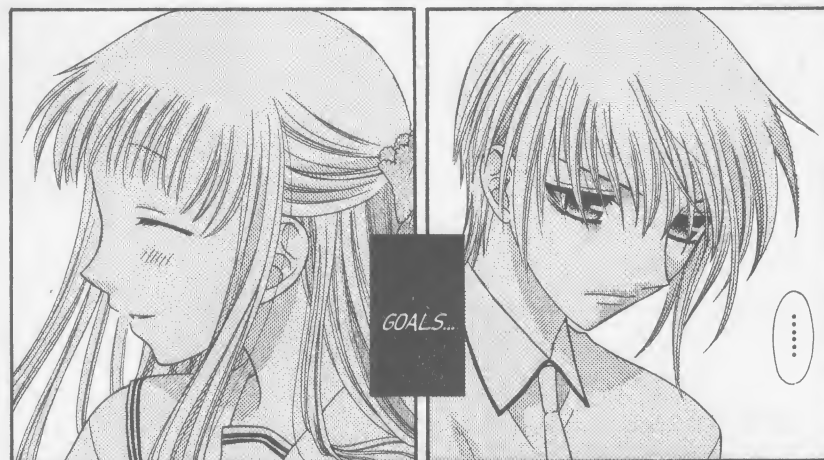
MY GUARDIAN ...

Fruits Basket 8:
Part 4

This may be a pretty (really?) old topic, but "Shadow Hearts" for the PS2 was a fun game. For some reason, I kept telling myself, "I like this," and played as if entranced. (I know the reason...) I liked Yuri. I liked how he talked when he got mad and I liked how he moves when battles are over. Because of that, I always tried to have Yuri give the final blow, so I almost died a lot....

To be continued
in part 5







WELL...?



DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?



Ha ha

DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT GOING TO TELL ANYONE.

IT'S A LIE!!
I DON'T HAVE SUCH A WUSSY HABIT!!



....



NO!

PRACTICE IS OVER. I'M GOING INSIDE! YOU COME TOO, SHISHOU!

ふーい



THANK YOU.

I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW AT TEN.

ALL RIGHT, THEN.



GET THE REST OF THE INSTRUCTIONS FROM KUNIMITSU...



MY FUTURE...



WHA?!

...STARING AT ME FROM BEHIND IF YOU WANTED TO TELL ME SOMETHING. SO...

Play with me! Play with me!



SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE, YOU'VE HAD THE HABIT OF...



HM? WHAT'S WRONG, KYO?

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

WHA?! WHY DO YOU ASK?!

DO YOUR
BEST,
MOMIJI-
CHAN!!

I don't really know
what's going on,
though.

FIGHT ON,
MOMIJI-CHAN!!
WE'RE WITH
YOU!!

I don't really
know what's
going on,
either.

I'M DOING
MY BEST!
♡

MOMIJI-
KUN IS
LIKE A
TEEN
IDOL!

Kya!
Kya!

...PRETTY
LIVELY
OVER
THERE.

IT
LOOKS...

Yeah!

SOMEDAY...

I'LL SHOW
YOU, TOHRU!!

MOMI-

REALLY?!

Eh heh
heh!

BUT, YOU
KNOW, I'VE
ALREADY
DECIDED.

SO IT'S A
PIECE OF
CAKE!

IT'S ALMOST
SUMMER
BREAK.

ALL THE LAST
MINUTE SCHOOL
PROJECTS BEFORE
VACATION ARE
THE WORST,
HUH?

ISN'T
IT?! IT'S
WONDERFUL!!

THAT'S
WONDERFUL!

YEAH.

EVEN
SO...

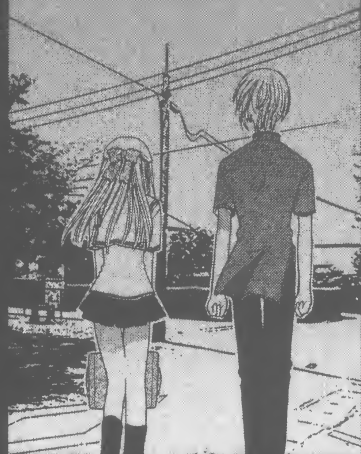
...I THINK
IT WOULD
BE GREAT
IF IT CAME
TRUE...

SO I KEEP
BELIEVING.

BUT...
MY GOAL
MIGHT
BE...

...IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME.

FOR US TOO.
THEY'RE
MAKING US
TURN IN A
PAPER ABOUT
OUR FUTURE
GOALS.



WELL...

GOOD NIGHT.

YES! GOOD NIGHT!



YUKI-KUN...

HM?

YES...?



NEVER MIND.

AH...



...IT MIGHT BE "IMPOSSIBLE"?

BUT DIDN'T HE SAY...

Eh?

UH... Y-YES... HE DID.

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* HE'LL SHOW ME THOUGH...

AND HE SAID HE'D SHOW ME NEXT TIME.

IT SEEMS LIKE MOMIJI-KUN HAS ALREADY DECIDED WHERE HE WANTS TO GO IN LIFE.



...ABOUT THOSE THINGS IT'S ALMOST...

...OF OBSTACLES ...

UM...

...IN OUR WAY.

THERE ARE A LOT...

WHEN I THINK...



OF COURSE NOT.

THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO MAKE BROTH!

DOES IT TASTE GOOD THAT WAY?



GAHH! I'M HUNGRY!

I WONDER IF SHIGURE-SAN IS SLEEPING?

WHO KNOWS? HIS SLEEP PATTERN IS INSANE.



A WASTE? IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S A GIRL.

BUT WH-WH-WH-WHY?!

WHAT A WASTE!

HUH? YEAH... I GUESS. HE CUT OFF HIS PONYTAIL.

YOU WENT TO THE DOJO TODAY, RIGHT, KYO-KUN?

IS SHISHOU-SAN DOING WELL?

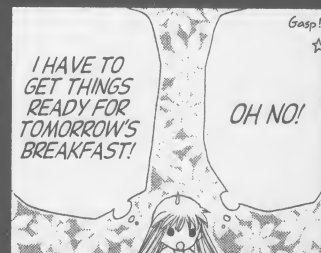


AH...!



step step

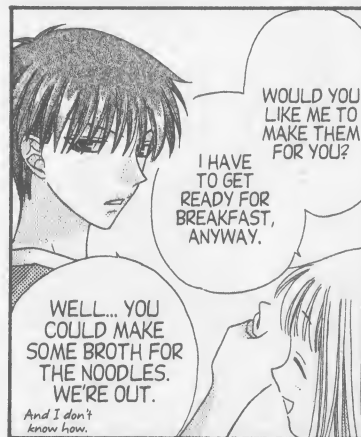
SHUT



Gasp!

I HAVE TO GET THINGS READY FOR TOMORROW'S BREAKFAST!

OH NO!



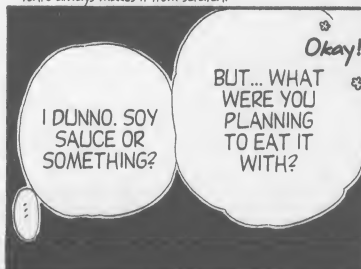
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO MAKE THEM FOR YOU?

I HAVE TO GET READY FOR BREAKFAST, ANYWAY.

WELL... YOU COULD MAKE SOME BROTH FOR THE NOODLES. WE'RE OUT.

And I don't know how.

Tokru always makes it from scratch.



Okay!

I DUNNO. SOY SAUCE OR SOMETHING?

BUT... WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING TO EAT IT WITH?



KYO-KUN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP?

YO.

I WAS HUNGRY AND COULDN'T SLEEP, SO I THOUGHT I'D HAVE SOME SOUMEN*.

*soumen: noodles



TRUTH IS...

...I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

I DON'T THINK IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE.

....



WHATEVER I DO...

BUT I'M THE CAT...

...AFTER ALL.

IF I'M NOT CAREFUL ...

IF THERE'S ONE THING THIS STUPID FAMILY IS GOOD AT, IT'S TELLING PEOPLE WHAT THEY CAN'T DO.

...IF THE SOHMA DON'T LIKE IT, IT'S OVER.

...EVEN IF SHISHOU SAYS IT'S OKAY...

...NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WANT IT...



!

HE'S LIKE A DOTING PARENT.

THAT'S ALL.



.....!



WHAT ARE YOU SMILING ABOUT?

NOTHING! SO, KYO-KUN, YOUR DREAM FOR THE FUTURE...

...IS TO INHERIT SHISHOU-SAN'S DOJO, ISN'T IT?



YOU WANNA KNOW WHY?

"IT WAS ALWAYS A SUPERSTITION OF MINE."

"I GUESS I WAS FINALLY READY TO ACCEPT..."

...THAT A CERTAIN SOMEONE WOULD BE OKAY, EVEN IF I CUT IT."

IT'S LIKE...

AND SHIGURE
IS KIND OF A
MEMBER OF
SOCIETY...

...BUT I
DON'T THINK
HE UNDER-
STANDS
EITHER.

I CAN'T TALK
TO SHISHOU
ABOUT IT--NOT
THAT I DON'T
TRUST HIM.

Eh...?

HUH?!
M-ME?!

YOU
KNOW...

...YOU'RE
PROBABLY THE
ONLY ONE WHO
UNDERSTANDS
HOW IT FEELS.

GRADUATING
HIGH SCHOOL
...

...GETTING A
JOB, LIVING ON
YOUR OWN...
THOSE ARE
ALL THINGS...

...THAT YOU
PROMISED
YOUR MOM
YOU'D DO
WHEN SHE
WAS AROUND.

WHAT?

WHY'RE
YOU
MAKING
THAT
FACE?

EH...?

"OVER
MY DEAD
BODY!"

I DON'T EVEN
KNOW IF I'D BE
ABLE TO LIVE
WITH NORMAL
PEOPLE.

JUST
THINKING
ABOUT IT, I
FREEZE UP.

"I DON'T THINK
IT'S EVEN
POSSIBLE."

ANY-
WAY...

WHY DO PEOPLE
HAVE TO ASK
ABOUT STUPID
QUESTIONS LIKE
"WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO
DO WHEN YOU
GRADUATE?"

THEY
JUST DON'T
GET IT. BEING
POSSESSED BY
THE CAT, IT'S NOT
THAT EASY.

NO.

NEVER
MIND
THAT.

IT'S GOT
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH YOU.

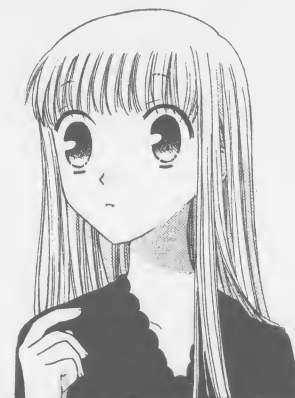
WHAT?

....

BUT...

...THERE ARE
TIMES...

...WHEN I'M
TROUBLED
WITH
ANXIETY.



...AND
YOU'RE
ALONE.

BUT NOW,
YOUR
MOTHER
IS GONE...

THAT'S...

...NOT...

...TRUE...
IS IT?



I'M
SURE...

...EVEN I...

...COULD
BE...



...A GOOD
WORKER.



...YOU'RE
PROBABLY
PRETTY ANXIOUS
ABOUT YOUR
FUTURE.





WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

IT'S NO
GOOD...

IT'S NO
GOOD,
KYO-KLIN.



y-
YOU SHOULDN'T
CONFIDE THIS IN
ME. YOU HAVE
TO PRETEND YOU
DIDN'T SEE THOSE
ANXIETIES IN
ME...

ボボ
ボボ
...OR I'LL
BREAK
DOWN AND
S-START...
CRYING... SO
PLEASE!



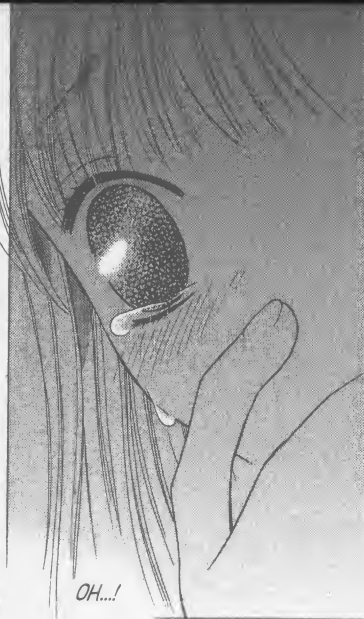
P-PLEASE
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME!!

I'M ALREADY
USED TO
YOUR CRYING...
YOUR NOSE IS
RUNNING.



No...
I'm
con-
cerned.
SHISHOU-SAN
IS WAITING
FOR YOU TO
CONFIDE IN
HIM... EVEN IF
IT'S SOME-
THING IS BAD.

y-YOU REALLY
SHOULD TALK
TO SHISHOU-
SAN. HE'LL
UNDERSTAND,
KYO-KUN. HE
REALLY WILL!



OH...!

THAT
MUST
HAVE
BEEN...



... WHAT
YUKI-KUN
WAS
TRYING TO
TELL ME.

NO...

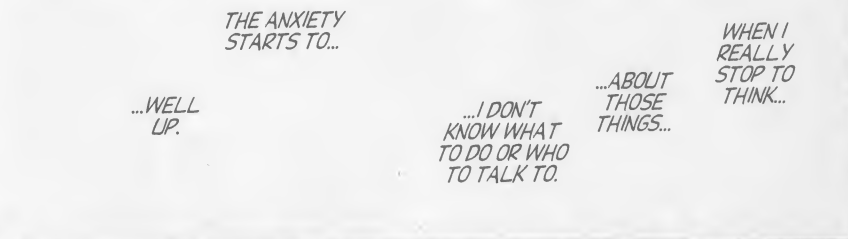


...SOMEDAY
I'LL...
...LEAVE
THIS
HOME.

AFTER I
GRADUATE,
THREE YEARS...
IN TEN YEARS
DOWN THE
ROAD...

CAN I REALLY
LIVE BY
MYSELF?

WILL I BE
ABLE TO
FIND GOOD
JOB?



THE ANXIETY
STARTS TO...

...WELL
UP.

...I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO DO OR WHO
TO TALK TO.

...ABOUT
THOSE
THINGS...

WHEN I
REALLY
STOP TO
THINK...



...SICK WITH
WORRY.

AND
BEFORE
I KNOW
IT...

...I START
TO GET...



PERHAPS
I CAN OFFER
SOME ADVICE?!



MM,
LET'S
SEE....

YES?

sniff

YOU KNOW,
TOHRU-KUN,
WHEN YOU
GET ANXIETY
ABOUT THE
FUTURE...

...IT'S BETTER
NOT TO THINK
ABOUT IT.

*And let's not wipe our
faces with dish towels.*



...PILED SO
HIGH AROUND
YOUR FEET
THAT YOU
CAN'T MOVE.
ARE YOU
WITH ME?

FOR
EXAMPLE,
LET'S SAY,
TOHRU-KUN...

...THAT
YOU ARE
SURROUNDED
WITH A
MOUNTAIN OF
LAUNDRY...



I JUST
WOKE UP. OH,
DON'T CRY,
TOHRU-KUN.

SHIGURE-
SAN...!
YOU WERE
AWAKE?!

GOODNESS,
KYO-KUN!
WHAT DID
YOU DO TO
HER?



HE'S TRYING
TO MAKE ME
LOOK BAD!
HE'S ALWAYS
DOING THAT
TO ME!!

*Always, always,
always!*



Heh!

OKAY,
OKAY, I
GOT IT!

...AND STIFLE
YOUR FEELINGS,
THE PRESSURE
WILL JUST GET
WORSE AND
WORSE AND
WORSE!

shake

shake

shake

shake

A A A H H !

*You'll
break it!*



SHEESH...

WHY ARE
YOU SUCH A
CRYBABY?



BECAUSE FORTUNE IS LOOKING OUT FOR YOU.

...YOU'LL BE DONE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

YOU SEE...

AND IF YOU KEEP WASHING THINGS ONE AT A TIME...

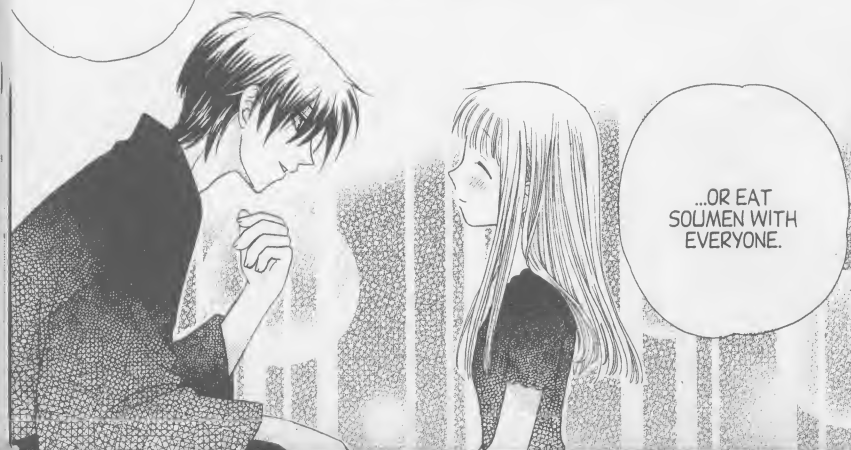
...IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW, WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY.



...TAKE A LITTLE BREAK.

SOMETIMES THE ANXIETY WILL START TO WELL UP, BUT WHEN IT DOES...

READ A BOOK, WATCH TV...



...OR EAT SOUMEN WITH EVERYONE.



OF COURSE IT'S IMPORTANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT LIES AHEAD, TOO...

...BUT IF YOU ONLY LOOK AT WHAT'S DOWN THE ROAD...

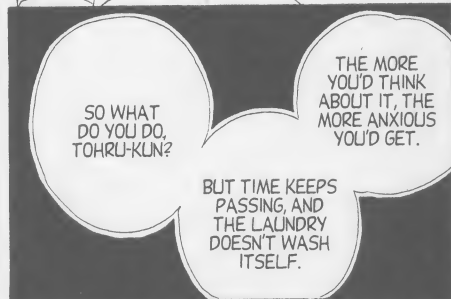
...YOU'LL GET TANGLED IN THE LAUNDRY AT YOUR FEET AND YOU'LL FALL, WON'T YOU?

...IF YOU'D EVER HAVE TIME FOR ANYTHING BUT LAUNDRY EVER AGAIN!

YOU'D WORRY ABOUT IF YOU COULD EVER WASH EVERYTHING, IF YOU COULD GET IT ALL CLEAN...

YOU WOULD BE AT A LOSS FOR WHAT TO DO, RIGHT?

NOW, LET'S ASSUME YOU DON'T HAVE A WASHING MACHINE, SO YOU HAVE TO WASH EVERYTHING INDIVIDUALLY BY HAND.



SO WHAT DO YOU DO, TOHRU-KUN?

THE MORE YOU'D THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE ANXIOUS YOU'D GET.

BUT TIME KEEPS PASSING, AND THE LAUNDRY DOESN'T WASH ITSELF.



...TO START WASHING THE LAUNDRY RIGHT AT YOUR FEET.

IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA...



THAT IS...

AND SO... THAT'S WHY...



IS SOMETHING WRONG?

UM...



...SOME-TIMES...

I... I GET ...

...ANXIOUS, TOO...



...IN A PLACE THAT FEELS LIKE HOME.

I-I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, BUT, UM...

OH, UM, NO, UM, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT WAS OUT OF THE BLUE!



Let's all eat soumen together!!

HUH?



WHY YOU... YOU JUST WANTED TO EAT SOUMEN, DIDN'T YOU?!

OH MY! I'M SHOCKED!!

WOW!! WHAT A WONDERFUL ANALOGY!!

ON NIGHTS...

...WHEN I'M ANXIOUS...

I REALLY MUST TREAT MYSELF TO SOME SOUMEN AS A REWARD... OH! I'D LIKE SOME TEA, TOO!



HONDA-SAN...?

Thank goodness.

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE AWAKE.



...LET'S ALL...

knock knock

knock

Chapter 47





UL-SPE BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 4

The reason Aaya is wearing long sleeves is to protect against sunburn. He's the type that sunburns easily. Hatori's probably the same way.



Bye!!

YOU'RE JUST
LEAVING AFTER
ALL THAT?!



NOW, LET US BE OFF!!
IN CELEBRATION OF THE
FOUNDATION OF OUR
BROTHERLY LOVE, LET
US GO TOGETHER AND
PARTAKE OF QUALITY
KOREAN BBQ,
SELF-COOKED!!

YOU
REALLY
HAVE A
GIFT...

...BEING ABLE
TO CHANGE THE
INTERPRETATION
OF THINGS
TO SUIT
YOUR OWN
PURPOSES...

HEY, WHEN
CAN WE
EAT THE
PEACHES?

I SEE! I SEE! SO
THAT'S HOW IT IS!
DO YOU ALWAYS
GET SO LONELY
WHEN I LEAVE
YOU!?!



GOOD
MORNING!

MON FRÈRE
MAGNIFIQUE!!

UP, UP, LITTLE
BROTHER! IT IS
CERTAINLY TIME
FOR A CHEERFUL
SONG TO SWEEP
YOU SONOROUSLY
INTO A WONDERFUL
NEW DAY!!

Today
could
really
suck...

I DON'T KNOW IF
IT'S SURPRISING OR
EXPECTED THAT
YUKI IS ACTUALLY
AN OVER-SLEEPER.
BY THE WAY, I'M THE
TYPE WHO SLEEPS
WHEN HE WANTS TO
SLEEP AND WAKES
WHEN HE WANTS
TO WAKE!!

SHALL I PLEDGE TO
SPEND THE ENTIRE
DAY WITH YOU, NOT
LEAVING YOU FOR
A MOMENT?!

AND THUS WE
LEARN NEW THINGS
ABOUT EACH
OTHER, ONE BY ONE!
I'M SO TOUCHED!

Ahh!

Continued...

I really liked the "Shadow Hearts" music, so I bought the soundtrack, too. (I know why...) I especially like the battle music. Now I even listen to it while I'm working. But, oh... that Judgment Ring theme goes around and around inside my head...

GURE-SAN... HOW
CAN I ACCEPT
WHEN MY HEART
IS ALREADY
FILLED WITH
YOUR LOVE?

...IF YOU DON'T
MIND THAT
IT'S ALREADY
HALF-EATEN...

WORRY NOT,
DEAREST AAYA!
YOU CAN EAT THE
PEACH THAT
I PEELED...

KEEP THAT
UP AND I'LL
THROW YOU
BOTH OUT!!

Dum-
dum-
dum!

Dum-
dum-
dum!

The world
is going
around...

I was relieved when I beat Atman. I'm playing the sequel, too.

ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT,
YUKI-KUN?!

I'M... I'M SO TIRED... YOU GUYS HAVE COMPLETELY WORN ME OUT.

WHAT'S
WRONG, YUKI-
KUN?

DON'T YOU
GET TIRED
ALWAYS
CRITICIZING
EVERY LITTLE
THING?

EAT, EAT! YOU
 MAY CAREFULLY
 PARTAKE, WHILE
 SHOWERING
 ME WITH YOUR
 THOUGHTS OF
 GRATITUDE!

THANK
 YOU SO
 MUCH!

NOW!

LAST TIME
 I BROUGHT
 CRAB...

...SO TODAY I
 THOUGHT I WOULD
 HUMBLLY OFFER
 YOU PEACHES!

I told you...

YES!

DON'T WORK
HONDA-SAN
LIKE THAT!

slap

slap

sla

PEEL THAT
PEACH THAT
I MIGHT SHARE
IN THE SWEET
GOODNESS!

FASTER,
FASTER!
THAT'S IT!

HEARING YOU
SPOUT THAT
SELF-CENTERED
LOGIC WITH THAT
SMILE MAKES
ME SICK.

Most
terrible

IT CAN'T BE
HELPED! IF I
PEELED THEM
MYSELF, MY
HANDS WOULD
GET STICKY FROM
PEACH JUICE!

I'm
infuriated!

WHAT'S
THIS? AND I
WENT TO ALL
THE TROUBLE
OF MAKING IT
CONCISE!

THAT'S TOO
CONCISE. I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!!

YOU ARE
INDEED A
SPOILED
FRERE. IN
THAT CASE...

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

SHOULD
I BRING A
PRESENT?

THAT HAS
ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING TO
DO WITH
ANYTHING!!

WHAT,
WHAT?
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

WHATEVER
IT IS, JUST
FORGET IT!! I'M
BUSY ENOUGH
AS IT IS!!

HAVE YOU
EVER FALLEN
IN THE BATH?

WAIT! I
PROMISED
I WOULDN'T
LEAVE YOUR
SIDE TODAY!

WAIT.

ACTUALLY...

But of course!
WE SEEM TO
HAVE SOMEHOW
STRAYED FROM
THE MAIN TOPIC,
BUT I CAME HERE
TO SEE YOU
ABOUT SOME-
THING!

HUH?

AAYA CAME
HERE TO SEE
YOU ABOUT
SOMETHING.

WELL,
YUKI-KUN, YOU
LOOK LIKE
YOU'RE ABOUT
TO COLLAPSE,
SO I'LL TELL
YOU QUICK--

I DON'T
WANT YOUR
FUN!! ANY-
WAY, MAKE
IT SIMPLE.

SIMPLE...
SIMPLE...

OH... IT'S
NO FUN
THAT WAY.

TELL ME ONLY
WHAT IT IS, GET
RIGHT TO THE
POINT, AND MAKE
IT SIMPLE AND
AS CONCISE AS
POSSIBLE.

KEEP IT
SIMPLE.

HMM...

Boys who are quick to yell don't get any peaches.

I don't want any!

THAT'S SO THOUGHTFUL!

AT ANY RATE, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE STARTED BRINGING FOODS THAT YUKI LIKES NOW.

Aaya must not know any.

SO THAT AYAME FINALLY LEFT?

IT WOULD BE NICE...

...IF THAT GOT THROUGH TO YUKI-KUN, WOULDN'T IT...

...AYAME-SAN?

sigh...

IT'S SO HOT TODAY...

I ALMOST FORGOT.

I NEED TO HARVEST THE EDAMAME* SOON.

*green soybeans

Don't follow me!

THEY LEFT...

Heh heh heh...

THAT...

HOW TERRIBLE.

TOHRU-KUN, DID YOU KNOW?

EH?

I'M PRETTY SURE THAT CRABS AND PEACHES...

...ARE BOTH FOODS YUKI-KUN LOVED WHEN HE WAS A CHILD.

!

THAT'S...



ARGH!!

MY STUPID BROTHER!!

It's hot!

Phew!

poof

BECAUSE I'VE
ALREADY GONE
PAST THE
CRITICAL POINT!



rip

snag

LET'S JUST
GO BACK TO
THE HOUSE...



Ha
ha
ha!

THIS MUST BE
A SIGN FROM
HEAVEN THAT WE
BROTHERS ARE TO
TALK SLOWLY,
CAREFULLY, AND
DELIBERATELY
TOGETHER
WITH NO
INTERFERENCE!

DO WHAT
YOU
WANT!

THIS MUST
BE WHAT THEY
MEAN BY "BEING
KICKED WHILE
YOU'RE DOWN"!!



WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING?! WHO ON
EARTH BESIDES
MYSELF WOULD
PROTECT YOU IF
YOU WERE TO RUN
INTO BANDITS?!

AS A MATTER
OF FACT, IT
IS VERY HOT
INDEED!!

THERE
ARE NO
BANDITS
HERE!!

ANYWAY, I'M
GOING TO A
PLACE THAT
ONLY HONDA-
SAN AND I
KNOW ABOUT.

I CAN'T
LET ANYONE
FOLLOW ME!

I TOLD
YOU... DON'T
FOLLOW ME!



BESIDES,
NII-SAN, DON'T
YOU GET WEAK
IN EXTREME
HEAT AND
COLD?!

IT'D BE A
PROBLEM IF
YOU TRANS-
FORMED AND
FAINTED!!

For me.

IT'S TOO
LATE FOR
THAT, LITTLE
BROTHER!

I'LL WRING
YOUR NECK!!

YOUR LOVE
NEST...

...IS IT?



WHO WAS IT
THAT LET HIM
OVERHEAR...

C'est
vrais!

YOU WANT TO
GO INSTEAD OF
OUR PARENTS.

THAT'S
IT EXACTLY!
THAT'S AMAZING,
YUKI! ARE YOU
PSYCHIC?!

SO AS I TRIED TO
ASK BEFORE, AM I
EXPECTED TO BRING
A PRESENT IN THAT
SITUATION?!

WOULD IT BE
APPROPRIATE
TO BRING A
BOUQUET OF
ROSES?!

IT'S NOT
THAT I
DON'T LIKE
THEM...

BUT YOU
AREN'T IN
TOUCH WITH
THEM, ARE
YOU?

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT...
I'LL JUST
ASK MOM
AND DAD
TO GO...

AND YOU AREN'T
THAT FOND OF
THEM TO BEGIN
WITH, ARE YOU?

I JUST
DON'T EXPECT
ANYTHING
FROM THEM...

...OR WANT
ANYTHING
FROM THEM.



NII-SAN,
YOU...

I'M SURPRISED
YOU WERE
ABLE TO GO TO
SCHOOL, BEING SO
SUSCEPTIBLE
TO HEAT AND
COLD.

OF COURSE
I WAS ABLE
TO GO!



UM...

THERE'S A
PORTABLE
SEWING KIT
IN MY BAG.

ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?
YOU'RE NOT
HURT, ARE
YOU?

EH?



Yes,
yes!

I HAPPEDED
TO OVERHEAR
THAT YOUR
PARENT-TEACHER
CONFERENCE IS
COMING UP.

SPEAKING
OF SCHOOL,
I JUST
REMEMBERED
...

THAT'S WHAT I
CAME HERE TO
TALK TO YOU
ABOUT.

DON'T
TELL ME...



BECAUSE THE
CAR THAT TOOK
ME TO SCHOOL
WOULD DRIVE
RIGHT UP TO THE
SCHOOL'S GATE!

Oohh, it's
Ayame-san!

He's acting
like a king
today, too.

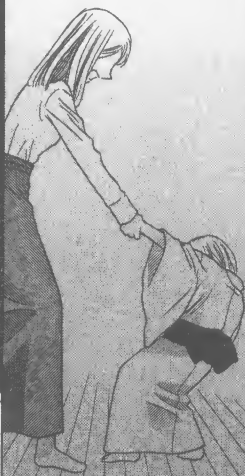
Is that
a new
parasol?

Ayame-
san
arrives...



"CUT THAT
OUT!"

"WHY ARE YOU SO
DISOBEDIENT?"



"YUKI!"

"I'LL HIT
YOU!"



I WISH...

...THAT
I COULD
SAY...

...THAT
I WAS
BETTER
THAN
THAT.

"YUKI."



I DON'T
KNOW...

...IF I
COULD
TAKE
THAT
AGAIN.



I...I
HATE IT.

STILL, IF
I CALL
THEM...

...FOR
SOMETHING
LIKE A PARENT-
TEACHER
CONFERENCES
...

...THEY
MIGHT TRY
TO TAME ME
AGAIN.



AT
THIS
POINT...

...I NO LONGER
HAVE ANY
LOVE...

...FOR THE
PEOPLE WHO
SOLD ME FOR
THEIR OWN
PROFIT.

IN THE PEOPLE
WHO SOLD ME,
LIKE I WAS A
TOOL.

ABANDONED
THEM.

I WAS SO
FOOLISH.



I HURT
MANY
PEOPLE...

"I'M SO
STUPID..."

"THERE
ARE..."

...PEOPLE
LIKE
THAT."

TRAMPLED
THEM.

...WOULD
HAVE SOLD
YOU...

BUT I
TOO...

...IN
EXCHANGE
FOR
SATISFYING
MY OWN IN-
DULGENCE.

"DON'T
TELL
ME..."

"STOP IT,
ALREADY."

"HE'S
YOUR
BROTHER
AAYA!"

AND THERE
WERE MANY
INDULGENCES.

"HAVEN'T
YOU HAD
ENOUGH?"

"... YOU'VE
FORGOTTEN
HIS NAME?"



WERE YOU LISTENING ...

...TO A WORD I SAID?

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TAKE ME TO THE PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE IN PLACE OF OUR PARENTS!!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO

ALLOW ME TO DEBRIEF YOU ON A WONDERFUL PLAN!



...ABOUT WHY I CHOSE THIS LYRICAL PROFESSION OVERFLOWING WITH FANTASY!

OH, IN THAT CASE, I SHOULD BE PREPARED TO TALK...

IT'S OKAY ...

It's because--



No need for concern!

IF I GO, THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOUR GOALS ARE DECIDED OR NOT!

IN FACT, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE EASIER IF WE JUST DISCUSSED ME INSTEAD.

WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT IN THAT?



NO...

I CAN'T KEEP RUNNING AWAY. I'M CALLING THEM.

OUR PARENTS.



ARE YOU SAD?



BUT...

...I STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHAT MY GOALS ARE.




I HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING.

OTHERWISE MOM AND DAD WILL TRY TO DECIDE THINGS FOR ME.



I'M NOT SAD. I'M DOWNRIGHT PATHETIC.



I JUST WANTED
TO MAKE SURE
THAT I HAD THE
POWER...

IT JUST SO
HAPPENED
THAT DRESS-
MAKING SUITED
ME BEST.

...TO MAKE
SOMETHING.

AT FIRST, IT
DIDN'T MATTER.
IT COULD HAVE
BEEN COOKING OR
GARDENING.

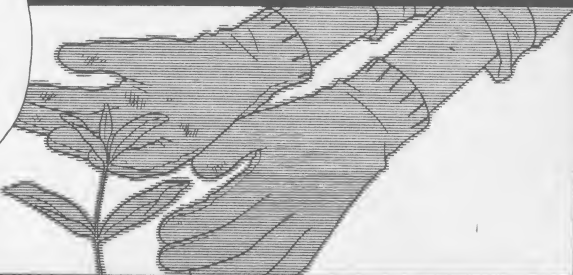


...WITH MY
OWN HANDS.

...IF I COULD
CREATE
SOMETHING
TANGIBLE...

MAYBE I
WANTED TO
KNOW...

IF THERE
COULD BE
SOMETHING
THAT WOULDN'T
EXIST WITH-
OUT ME.



I WANTED...

...TO CREATE
SOMETHING.

EVEN I,
WHO HAVE
A CHARISMA
THAT WAFTS
OF NOBLE
REFINEMENT
...



...TO TRY
MAKING
SOMETHING...

Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha

...HAVE TIMES
WHEN I LOSE
CONFIDENCE!

ANYTHING.
IT DIDN'T
MATTER
WHAT.

AND
SO I HAD
THIS UNCON-
TROLLABLE
URGE...

...AS YOU
THINK YOU
ARE.

...ISN'T AS
ALONE...

IF SOMEONE
LIKE ME...

...CAN HAVE
SOMEONE
WHO IS
THERE FOR
ME...

...THEN
SURELY A
GOOD KID
LIKE YOU...

THERE...

FINISHED.

...BY SOME-
THING...

...THAT
WOULDN'T
EXIST WITH-
OUT ME.

MAYBE I
WANTED...

...TO BE
NEEDED...

YUKI...

IT'S ALL
RIGHT.

YOU
ARE NOT
A TOOL.

BUT WHAT'S
MOST IMPORTANT
REALLY IS YOUR
FEELINGS.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT OUR
PARENTS
WILL SAY.



...YOU'RE A FOOL..

...BUT I DON'T THINK...



DON'T REPORT EVERY LITTLE THING TO HATORI!!

HELLO, TORI-SAN!! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE WHAT YUKI JUST TOLD ME!

IT'S SUCH A WASTE.



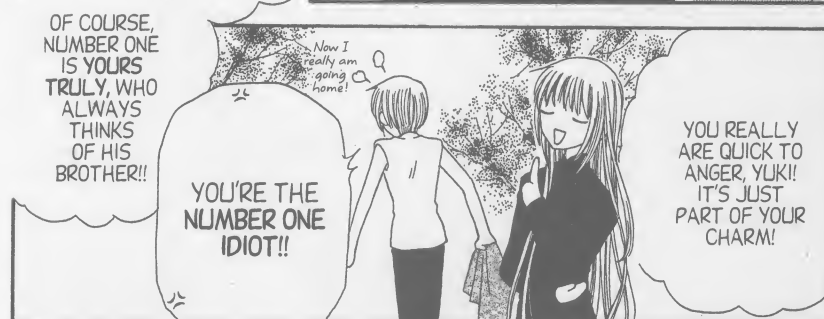
I HAVE EXPRESSED MY PURE VOW IN TANGIBLE FORM THAT AT LEAST I WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR YOU!

put it on forthwith!!

THAT'S NO REASON TO EMBROIDER WEIRD THINGS ON PEOPLE'S CLOTHES!

THERE ARE BUT THREE PEOPLE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD WHO CAN COMPLETE SUCH FINE EMBROIDERY IN SUCH A SHORT TIME!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?



OF COURSE, NUMBER ONE IS YOURS TRULY, WHO ALWAYS THINKS OF HIS BROTHER!!

YOU'RE THE NUMBER ONE IDIOT!!

YOU REALLY ARE QUICK TO ANGER, YUKI!! IT'S JUST PART OF YOUR CHARM!



...BE AN IDIOT...

BUT, NII-SAN...

YOU MAY...

NII-SAN...



Chapter 48





EVERYONE!
LET THE FUN
BEGIN!

ENJOY
YOUR SUMMER
BREAK TO THE
FULLEST.

And
do your
home-
work.

IT'S
SUMMER
BREAK!!!



I FEEL SO
GOOD I COULD
SMASH A CAR!
UURAAHH!!

THAT'S...!



ARISA...
WILL YOU
CALM
DOWN A
LITTLE?



I WON'T GIVE A
DAMN ABOUT
STUDYING!!

I'LL PLAY!!
I'LL EAT, I'LL
SLEEP, I'LL
DO MY PART-
TIME JOB!

IT'S GREAT
TO BE ON
VACATION!

Sing! Dance!

Make
noise!



AND SO...



THE SERMON
FROM YOUR
TEACHER...

...IS
OVER!!



...BUT BE
SOMEONE WHO
CAN TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THEIR OWN
WORDS AND
ACTIONS.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE
"ADULTS"...

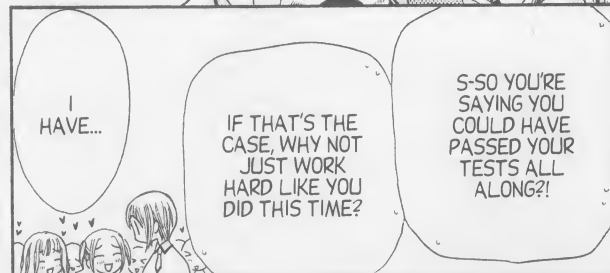
BELIEVE IT OR
NOT, THAT'S
ACTUALLY
HARDER.

UL-SPE BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 5

While I drew Kyo saying, "Why are you so scared?" I kept thinking, "Why aren't you scared?" Haunted houses are really scary! They're no good. I can't stand them.

Fruits Basket 8:
Part 6

"Sakura Wars 3" was fun. (Is this a late topic too?) I was obsessed with Erica. She's so cute with her good morning dance! Paris is great too. The "Sakura" series always has mini-games; this time there were lots of hard ones, and the hardest one was Erica's. (Of all things...) It would be nice if I could be better at mini-games and other action stuff. Why am I so bad at them...? (I don't know.)



HOW AM I
SIMPLE?!

YOU DON'T
THINK OF
YOURSELF
AS SIMPLE?
I'M SHOCKED.

OH, HONDA-
SAN. SHIGURE
SAYS HE'S
NOT GOING
TO BE HOME
TONIGHT.

He forgot to tell you.

DONT
IGNORE
ME!!

*She
left
early*

WHAT AN
INSULT. BEING
CALLED SIMPLE
BY A TRUE
SIMPLETON...

AH?

Ah!

FIGURE OUT
THAT TAKING
EVERY CHANCE
FOR A FIGHT IS
WHAT MAKES
YOU SIMPLE,
STUPID CAT.

DON'T RUN
AWAY AFTER
PICKING A
FIGHT, DAMN
RAT!

UH, UH,
um, well,
let's see!!
WH-WHAT
SHOULD we
have for
dinner?!

SHOUGAYAKI*...

**shougayaki: grilled pork with ginger*



...BUT AT
THE END OF
THE DAY, I
REALIZED...

...I DON'T
FEEL LIKE IT.

I SEE!!



BUT--

THE BEGINNING
OF SUMMER
VACATION...

...IS VERY
EXCITING,
ISN'T IT?!

YOU REALLY
ARE SIMPLE.



ON HOT DAYS,
WATER IS
THE BEST!



WE'RE
SOAKED!
WE'RE
SOAKED!!

Kya
ha
ha!

NO MORE
MERCY!!

SHOUGAYAKI
IS GOOD FOR
DEALING
WITH
SUMMER
HEAT...

I KNEW
THAT...



KYO-
KUN...

DAMN HAPPY
RABBIT!



AH!

TSU HARU-
SAN...?

I WOULD
LIKE SOME...

SHOUGAYAKI.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?



GOTCHA!



JUST
COOLING
OFF, EH?

TO ME
IT'S JUST
LOOKS
CREEPY.

IT'S
REFRESHING

HAUNTED MANSION

IT REALLY DOES LOOK FUN!!

UWAH!

It's frightening!

It's terrible!

とん

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...

THAT'S A...!

I'm hungry

LET'S ASK EVERYONE IF THEY WANT TO GO IN BEFORE WE GO IN.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, SQUIRT.

I'M SO EXCITED!

HONDA-SAN...FOR EXAMPLE.

LET'S GO!!

かしっ

IT'S A SECRET UNTIL WE GET THERE!

YOU TOO, YUKI. HURRY, HURRY!

I WANT TO GO HOME...

So pretty

YOU DON'T HAVE THE ENTHUSIASM OF YOUTH.

THIS WAY!

TO CELEBRATE THE START OF SUMMER BREAK, WE'LL ALL PLAY TOGETHER!

ONE OF MY CLASSMATES TOLD ME IT WAS FUN, YUP!

YOU DON'T EITHER!

So I thought we should all go!

Ah!

HERE, HERE! THIS!

A FUN PLACE?! I CAN'T WAIT!

BUT MOMIJI-KUN, WE'RE INSIDE A DEPARTMENT STORE. WHERE ARE WE...?



WHY INDEED...

WHY ARE YOU SO SCARED?



Kya ha ha!

WHY'S SHE HANGING UPSIDE DOWN? IS SHE EXERCISING?

I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ONE WHO'S BEEN LAUGHING THE ENTIRE TIME.



PERHAPS LAUGHTER...

...IS THE ANSWER.



EEEEEEK!!



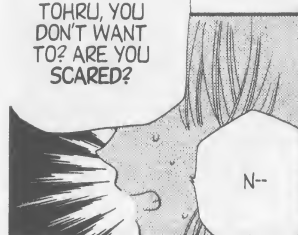
HONDA-SAN...

IT'S JUST PAPIER MACHE.



EEHH?!

THAT'S A "NO." WE'RE GOING HOME.



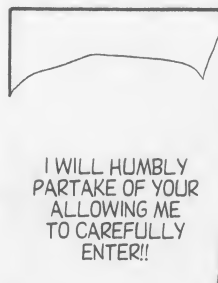
TOHRU, YOU DON'T WANT TO? ARE YOU SCARED?

N--

SO...



SHE'S SPEECHLESS.



I WILL HUMBLYPARTAKE OF YOUR ALLOWING ME TO CAREFULLY ENTER!!



NO! I'LL GO IN. I'LL GO IN. I'LL CONQUER MY FEARS.

N-NO...!!

WELL, YES! BUT MY MOTHER ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT WE NEED TO FACE OUR FEARS, BECAUSE IF WE STAY AFRAID, THEN THOSE FEARS CAN RULE OUR LIVES, SO I MUSTN'T KEEP AVOIDING IT!!

IT'S OKAY IF YOU AVOID IT.



HONDA-SAN...
YOU REALLY
SHOULD KEEP
YOUR EYES
OPEN...

B-
BUT...

THIS
WAY, IT'S
A LITTLE
LESS
SCARY.

I KNEW
IT...!!

TOHRU?!

wham

IT'S NO
GOOD. AT
THIS RATE...

...SHE'LL
DIE!!
From
running into
things.

W-where
is the
path?



ooooo!
spoooooky!

EEK!
WHAT'S
THAT?!



IT'S...

THERE'S NO
POINT IF THE
SOUNDS ARE
GOING TO
SCARE YOU!!

...ALL

Whack!

BAM!



I'M L-L-
LAUGHING,
SEE... HA HA
HA...!!

spring

HYAAAH!!

boing

SHE'S
REALLY
PUSHING
HERSELF...

IF IT'S TOO
MUCH, YOU
CAN JUST
LEAVE! HEY!!

LAUGHTER
WILL BLOW
AWAY MY
FEAR!!



YOU'RE NOT
GIVING UP
YET?!

I CAN'T GIVE
UP NOW. I'VE
COME TOO
FAR!

IF I WALK
WITH
MY EYES
CLOSED...!

HONDA-
SAN...



pant

YOU'RE
WHAT'S
SCARING ME...

I'M
SCARED!!

I'M...

pant

pant

pant

HUH?

HOLD
MY HAND,
TOHRU!

I'M NOT
STUPID OR
VULGAR!!

AND YOUR
VULGARITY.

ANYWAY,
I CAN'T STAND
LOOKING AT
YOU. WHY DON'T
YOU JUST
LEAVE?!

HONDA-SAN,
ARE YOU
OKAY?

You look
worn out...

Y-YES...
JUST
BARELY...

SHUT UP,
BRAT!
JUST GO!

WHADDAYA
MEAN. "TSK-
TSK"?!

BUT IT'S
TRUE...

YOU
SHOULDN'T
LET YOUR
FIGHTING GET
IN THE WAY
OF HELPING A
GIRL IN NEED.

Tsk, tsk!



HER GENTLE HANDS... GENTLE VOICE... THE TEARS THAT WELLED UP IN HER EYES...

IT WAS POURING RAIN THE NIGHT IT HAPPENED. SHE PULLED A SWEATER OVER HIM, ONE SHE HAD KNIT FOR HIM HERSELF.

...HE WAS SEPARATED FROM HIS MOTHER.

WHEN HE WAS TEN YEARS OLD...

REALLY?!

THAT WAS THE LAST IMAGE HE HAS OF HIS MOTHER.

THE NEXT MORNING, SHE WAS GONE. ALL THAT WAS LEFT WERE HIS DRUNKARD FATHER, A HUGE DEBT, AND THE SWEATER.

BUT HE REMEMBERED HIS MOTHER'S TEARS FROM THAT NIGHT, AND NEVER HELD IT AGAINST HER.

AND SILENTLY, HE WORKED FOR HIS FATHER TO REPAY THE DEBT...

...ALL THE WHILE CLUTCHING THE SWEATER, FRAGRANT WITH HIS MOTHER'S LOVE...

ooooAH!
bounce

EEK!

Boo!

FOR EXAMPLE, THAT PERSON...

HE LOOKS SCARY, BUT...

...HE'S ACTUALLY A FINE, UPSTANDING YOUNG MAN WHO LIKES ANIMALS AND COOKING.

HUH...?

IF YOU'RE THAT SCARED...

...WHY DON'T YOU CREATE YOUR OWN SETTINGS?

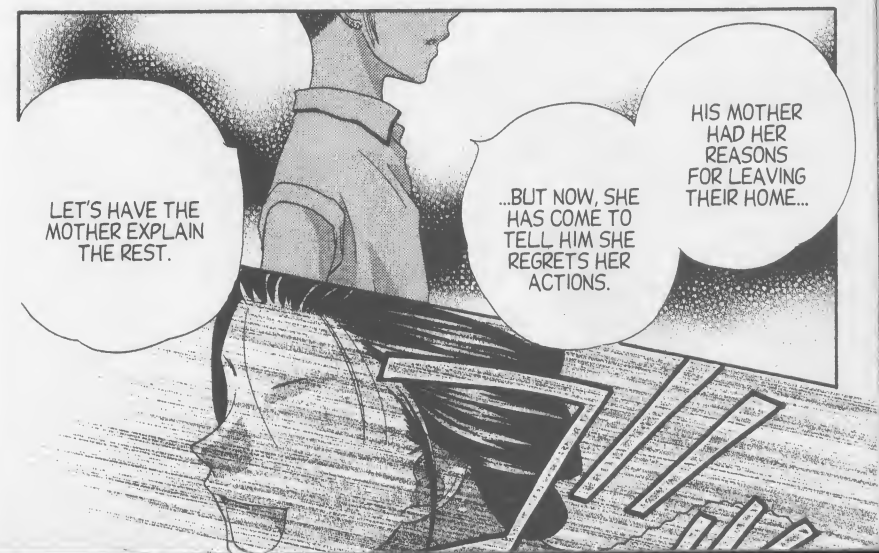
GROWING UP, HE WAS THE GUY THAT ALL THE GIRLS WANTED TO MARRY. BUT HE HAS ONE FLAW--HE IS EASILY MOVED TO TEARS.

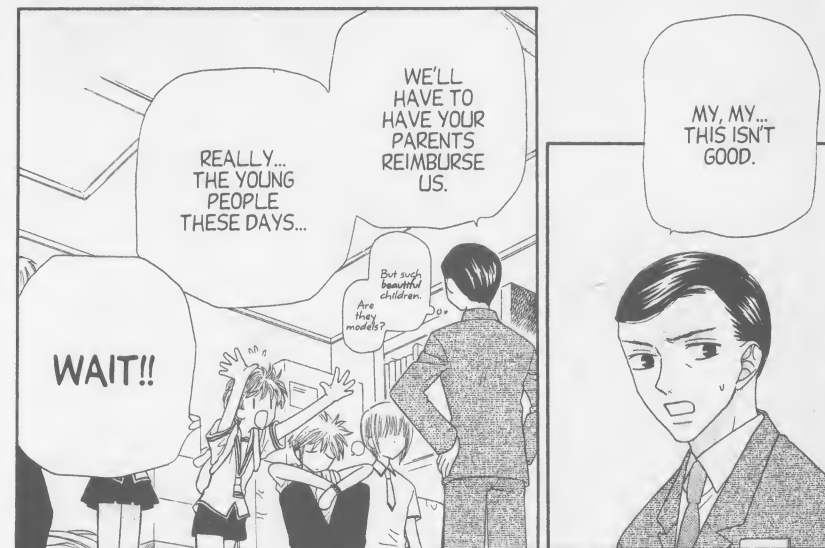
ON SUNDAYS, HE EVEN VOLUNTEERS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE.

WOW... REALLY?

BUT EVEN SUCH A MAN CAN HAVE A MOST GRIEVOUS PAST...

REALLY...?





IT'S
OFFICIAL...

SUMMER
BREAK IS
HERE!

I'M SO
EXCITED!

ME TOO,
ME TOO!

THIS
FEELING...

Yes!

AND CATCH
BUGS!!

LET'S GO TO THE
BEACH AND SET
OFF FIREWORKS
AND SMASH
WATERMELONS!

YUKI AND
EVERYONE
CAN COME,
TOO!

munch

munch

.....

I'VE JUST
GOT A
HUNCH...

...THAT
SOMETHING
IS SPECIAL
IS GOING TO
HAPPEN.

IT'S
STRANGE...

DOES
SUMMER...

...DO THAT TO
PEOPLE?



NOW...

GURE-NII* IS
ALL I HAVE
LEFT.

I'M SURE
THEY'RE
HAPPY TO
BE RID OF Y--

HIRO.

I KNOW...

NOW...

**Gure-nii: "Big brother Shigure"*



...RIN?

YOU WON'T
GIVE UP,
WILL YOU...

IT WON'T
BE EASY...

...BUT...



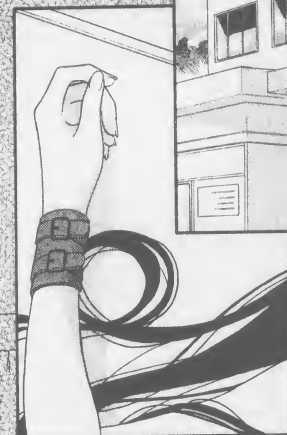
I HEARD...

...THAT
YOU'RE
ABLE TO
LEAVE THE
HOSPITAL
NOW?



ISN'T THAT
GOOD?

IF YOU HADN'T
SNUCK OUT SO
OFTEN, YOU
COULD HAVE
LEFT SOONER,
THOUGH.





I'LL NEVER
GIVE UP.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT TO
CALL IT,
BUT...

...SOME-
THING IS
SPREADING
THROUGH
MY CHEST.

...UP
TO MY
THROAT.

...TRYING
TO COME
OUT.

I HAVE A
FEELING.

I HAVE A
FEELING..



WHO...

...WOULD
GIVE UP?

Next time in...

Fruits Basket



9

Mitsuki Tskaya

Sizzlin' Summer Lovin'...

Finally--summer has arrived! While Tohru struggles through bipolar days of hope and anxiety, what will happen when Yuki comes face-to-face with the new member of the student council?! And...is Uo-chan crazy in love?! Who's that she's hanging out with?! Plus, Hana-chan's past is finally disclosed in a bonus feature! Come join the party in the 9th volume of the super-popular *Fruits Basket*!

Fruits Basket Volume 9
Available June 2005



A FEELING
THAT I JUST
CAN'T...

...PUT INTO
WORDS.

To Be Continued in Volume 9

Year of the Ox: Beast of Burden



Men born in this year are highly impressionable and any scrap of unhappiness tends to leave lasting marks on their personality—especially where girls are concerned. Put an Ox up against a lady and they turn to mush, literally, on the spot—a stark contrast to their brash stubbornness to be sure.

On the other hand, women tend to be serious, but also neat and punctual. Their cooking is to die for and they are very loving and motherly. Perfectionists at heart, woman born in this year try to turn a deaf ear on flattery, as the knowledge of a job well done is more than thanks enough in their eyes. A good deed though, never goes unpaid with an Ox.

Celebrity Oxen:

Neve Campbell
Adam Garcia
Whoopi Goldberg
Andy Lau
Heather Locklear
Frankie Muniz
Jack Osbourne
Sigourney Weaver

Ox

Years: 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997,

2009, 2021, 2033

Qualities: Inspiring, Conservative, Steadfast, Dependable, Eloquent

Grievances: Methodical, Stubborn, Eccentric, Fierce Temper

Suitable Jobs: Surgeon, General, Hairdresser, Investment Banker

Compatible With: Snakes, Roosters and Rats

Must Avoid: Sheep

Ruling Hours: 1 AM to 3 AM

Season: Winter

Ruling Month: January

Sign Direction: North-Northwest

Fixed Element: Water

Corresponding Western Sign: Capricorn

During the great race, the cunning Rat hitched a ride atop the Ox's head and jumped across the finish line at the last moment. To say the Ox was angry would have been the understatement of a lifetime. Oxen are unyieldingly stubborn and hate feeling opposed. In fact, the only thing they hate more is failing. For these reasons, people born in the year of the Ox are natural born leaders and powerfully successful ones at that.

While an Ox might seem like a scary person to go up against, they tend to be quiet, very patient of others and highly trusted. Much like Hattaharu, Ox (or Cows, if you prefer) have a certain yin-yang type of duality to their personalities meaning they can be kind and calm at times and at others completely rude and arrogant. Nonetheless, they enjoy listening to others and usually take a friend or colleague's advice whenever given. Oxen are very orderly and strictly by-the-book when it comes to their jobs and chores.

*Note: It is important to know what day Chinese New Year's was held on as that changes what Zodiac animal you are. Example: 1985 actually began on February 20 and anyone born before that date is actually a Rat.

Year of the Dragon: Hot Headed



However, success is not necessarily a needed outcome as the very experience of trying is reward enough for a Dragon. Naturally softhearted, Dragons should be careful to not let themselves become too vulnerable by being too trusting of others.

Women born in this year are noble without exception and never submit to pressure when they have the chance to outshine another individual—especially men. Females tend to be quite practical in their clothing choices as they hate being restricted—meaning they shy away from tight and flashy and go for loose and comfortable. Love for a Dragon comes from the very bottom of their heart and is the kind that is sincere and the truest of trues.

Celebrity Dragons:

Sandra Bullock
Courteney Cox
Shannon Elizabeth
Colin Farrell
Melissa Joan Hart
Teri Hatcher
Haley Joel Osment
Reese Witherspoon
Maleficent (Sleeping Beauty)

*Note: It is important to know what day Chinese New Year's was held on as that changes what Zodiac animal you are. Example: 1988 actually began on February 17 and anyone born before that date is actually a Rabbit.

Dragon

Years: 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000,

2012, 2024, 2036

Qualities: Intelligent, Enthusiastic, Softhearted, Lucky, Imaginative

Grievances: Bossy, Loud, Flamboyant

Suitable Jobs: Politician, Priest, Artist, Film Director

Compatible With: Rat, Snake, Monkey, Rooster

Must Avoid: Dog, Sheep

Ruling Hours: 7 AM to 9 AM

Season: Spring

Ruling Month: April

Sign Direction: East-Southeast

Fixed Element: Wood

Corresponding Western Sign: Aries

At first glance, the dragon is by far the most mysterious of all the animals of the Chinese Zodiac, and the one most up to interpretation as to what the dragon is. A Komodo Dragon might come to mind for a Westerner, but *Fruits Basket* takes a very Eastern view by having Hatori Sohma transform into a Sea Horse, literally "tatsu no otoshigo" or "dragon's child," showing a glimmer of the awe the creatures emit.

For the Chinese, who proclaim themselves "Lung Tik Chuan Ren" or "Descendents of the Dragon," these Dragons bring about good fortune and the year itself is a grandiose one full of ambition. This brave and energetic nature races ten-fold through the very core of anyone born under the Dragon's banner.

Dragons themselves are naturally healthy and loving individuals that are quite eccentric, but are easily excited and prone to stubborn outbursts. Dragons are pioneering individuals with their futures well thought out in advance.



Melissa Peebles
Age 23
Ukiah, CA

I liked all of your art, Melissa, including your heavily illustrated envelope! I picked this piece, though, because I loved the "toning technique" you used for Shigure.



Nichole Arcand
Age 16
King George, VA

I really like this drawing. It simply and effectively portrays Tohru's romantic dilemma.



Jane Luo
Age 11
Springfield, VA

A lot of people draw the entire *Fruits Basket* cast when they submit fan art, and Jane is no exception. Surprisingly, Jane is only 11! Somebody has been encouraging her to draw, that's for sure! Her composition is great, and all of her animals are super cute!

Fans Basket

Shyrak Esteban
Age 16
Kaneohe, HI



Aloha, Shyrak! I love your unique style. Very bold, very artsy. You have a knack for graphic design!

Katch
Age 16
Oceanside, CA



Poor Hatori. He looks exhausted. I guess patching up Kyo and Yuki all the time keeps his mind off his broken heart, right, Katch?



Sei-chan
Age 17
Duluth, MN

This is seriously adorable! All our favorite *Fruits Basket* characters illustrated Craig McCracken-style! Craig McWho, you ask? He's the creator of the *Powerpuff Girls*, of course! Awesome work, Sei-chan!

Err...
Skipping
school?

9/25/2004